

Funding, facilities top year

By Bob Moskowitz

Town Crier staff

While 1997 was a year that once again was highlighted by York County's continued financial and population growth, numerous other newsworthy items punctuated the period.

The year, to be sure, produced the county's largest general budget in history (\$61.6 million) while the Board of Supervisors avoided a tax increase.

During the span, what the citizenry saw included:

Completing construction of a new courthouse facility that led to whole-sale shuffling of county offices; financial participation in construction of regional jails for juveniles and adults; the surprising unseating of 15-year Democratic State Delegate Shirley Cooper by Republican Jo Ann Davis in the 96th District; and construction of a shell building for commercial use on a 182-acre York River Commerce Park off Old York-Hampton Highway.

Also, introduction of twice-yearly collection of personal property taxes; Supervisors' approval to go ahead with construction of a library in the county's Tabb section; and observance of the privately funded inaugural Celebrate Yorktown Festival.

Chronologically, those, and other events, unfolded this way:

In January, the shell building was slated to house students during repair of Tabb High School, but the cost proved too high. Veteran Jere Mills was elected by supervisors to his third term as chairman of the board.

Cox Cable replaced Continental Cable as the county's cable server; perhaps not important, but something that affected the majority of citizens.

Land use and acquisition occupied a good deal of the supervisors' time all year, starting in January, when the board voted unanimously to purchase almost 12 acres near the Tabb Lakes subdivision off Old Hampton Highway for \$653,000. The property will be used to house a 30,000 square-foot library and possibly for a future recreation center of some sort.

The board ended the month with a work session in which it launched an effort to improve communications with citizens. It was an effort that would bear fruit in ensuing months. However, the original intent was at least partly misunderstood, causing a good deal of criticism. Eventually, the Board zeroed in on the original aim, described this way by Chairman Mills: "The effort is to make us get better input from citizens and to make government more voter friendly. The only reason for this meeting was to improve communications."

February started off with a hot topic for the supervisors, who approved a new ordinance on leaf burning after months of rhetoric on the oft-smokey subject. Around the same time, in a totally unrelated matter, Davis announced her candidacy for the Republican nomination to seek a seat in the House of Delegates. Calm as the matter was then, realtor Davis would surprisingly

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burn up the polls in November.

Plans began to form for the Celebrate Yorktown Festival on Aug. 30 and 31. The Yorktown Foundation was established in 1995 as a non-profit organization to facilitate fund-raising activities in support of the basic goal of the Yorktown Master Plan (adopted in 1993). Meanwhile, concern was growing over the cost of dealing with juvenile offenders. The county had budgeted \$48,000 for the problem, but costs from July 1, 1996 to November, 1996, had already totalled \$82,027. The year's full cost figured to be near \$100,000. That amount was approved at a regular board meeting by a 4-1 majority (Zaremba dissenting). The costs were expected to ease off with the opening of the juvenile regional facility.

A turnout of some 75 ended the month providing input into plans for the new library in Tabb at a meeting at the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. At about the same time, Yorktown Battlefield announced plans to charge admission for the first time. Visitors will purchase stickers displayed on vehicle dashboards.

In March, County Administrator Danny Stuck presented his budget proposal for a record \$61.6 million. The sum included an increase of \$1.2 million for the schools, but fell short of the additional \$2 million requested by the schools a few days earlier on March 3. The Supervisors also pondered local support for professional baseball, an idea that would strike out from lack of other communities' support.

A more concrete item was the opening of a Winn-Dixie Marketplace on Route 17 off Goodwin Neck Road. The 47,000 square-foot store had been opposed by some, but the store opened with a frill when the store presented the Yorktown Foundation with a check for \$1,000. The store, open 24 hours daily, will employ 80 full-timers and over 100 part-timers.

On the other side of the economic table, the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown announced it will cut its work force by 149 during the coming summer months and an additional 37 will be cut from the Atlantic Division at the NWS.

Along with April showers, the month produced its annual budget. Also, once again, the matter of increasing juvenile arrests was spotlighted, but the National Institute of Justice Journal revealed that the figures are part of a national trend that began in 1985.

The final approved budget enabled the county to avoid increasing taxes for the third successive year. Meanwhile, the drive to use the old Circuit Courthouse in Yorktown for purposes other than municipal use continued. Nevertheless, the county adopted a Capital Improvements Program through 2003 with \$1.54 million included to renovate the courthouse. Zaremba opposed, indicating citizens want the building for other purposes. Al Meadows also opposed the plan.

Poquoson City Attorney Benjamin Hahn left that post to join the York-Poquoson Commonwealth Attorney's Office as a prosecutor in Eileen Addison's office. Meanwhile, the long-promised sale of York High School radio station WYCS was nearing and Norfolk-based WHRO, a Public Radio Station, was among six bidders.

The board did approve supporting a regional sports authority whose ultimate plan was to construct a county-based minor league baseball stadium. However, Williamsburg put off the voting for at least a month, and the ill-fated two-year-old plan remained up in the air.

Environmental and Development Services Director John Dunn fumed over a postponement of a vote on a proposed sewer project in Tabb's Calihrop Neck Road area. He claimed opponents "don't want growth and the area and have stirred everyone up." Also, a lingering topic is the issue of telecommunications towers. The matter was discussed at length at a work session, but it, too, remained unsettled.

As the month ended, shell building ground was broken with hopes that the building be available for

use in October. Also, former School Board Chairman Paul L. Wilson, 46, received a 20-year sentence for embezzlement. All but one year was suspended by substitute Circuit Judge J. Warren Stephens on May 22.

June was busting out all over, but over 100 "busters" turned out as an overflow Circuit Courthouse throng to make a play to use the building for more than administrative purposes. Once the new courthouse is open on Sept. 5, the county's staff will be dispersed in many directions. One is the old Circuit Courtroom, which is designated to be used for Supervisors' meetings, although most in the crowd wanted it to serve as a cultural center. One of the meeting's organizers was Cooper.

Mills made it clear that although there could be "a compromise," the upstairs court room "will be a meeting room for local government. If there is a compromise... it will be regarding the first floor." About the same time, the postponement by Williamsburg of a vote for financially supporting a Sports Authority meant that Myrtle Beach, S.C., most likely will win the race to obtain a minor league franchise located then in Durham, N.C. That city will advance to Triple-A making the Class A franchise available.

As June wound down, the Supervisors opted to earmark up to \$25,000 from the tourism-related meals and beverage tax which could be loaned to the Yorktown Foundation if the Celebrate Yorktown Festival floundered financially. The board also committed to provide \$20,000 in services such as fire and police protection.

From 25,000 to 30,000 saw July 4 fireworks at night after 5,000 to 7,000 attended daytime parade and other activities along the Yorktown waterfront. The next day, the York-Poquoson Chapter of the American Red Cross "burned the mortgage" in a celebration of its own "declaration of independence."

Two weeks later, the public received a view of what the new library facility in Tabb may look like. Drawings were all tentative, but some 80 people were on hand as the board heard from Tymoff and Moss Architects. That same night, the board rejected a request for rezoning some Seaford Road property by Bell Atlantic-Virginia. The move to switch from rural residential to limited industrial was denied in order to stay in concert with the Comprehensive Plan.

An agenda of 32 items also included approval of funding about \$246,000 from meal tax revenue for the county storm water management program. The first of 15 projects to be handled will be in Queens Lake. In all, the projects will cost \$3.58 million over five years. The costliest project will be the Penniman drainage improvements, \$720,000, followed by \$259,000 for Queens Lake.

On Aug. 6, the board terminated a contract with the Peninsula Transportation District Commission, effective the end of the year. Faced with a steadily increasing amount of money to be spent on the sparsely used PENTRAN system, the board opted to terminate the service after a three-year contract ended. The current budget calls for \$80,200 for PENTRAN, but that would eventually increase to \$761,000 in FY2002.

Administrator Danny Stuck unveiled a \$3.4 million plan that will take about two-and-a-half years of implementation to address needs of county governmental office space well into the next century.

Creation of a new refinery process called an alkylation unit could stimulate economy for both York County and Amoco's Yorktown refinery. To that end, the board approved funding a \$500,000 technology grant over a two-year span. At the same Aug. 20 meeting, a new 15-year county contract with COXCOM, Inc., was approved, although a portion of the agreement upset Zaremba, who voted against one of two resolutions. He felt the contract gave the company a 15-year "lock."

The same week, Mark Medford was honored as the Virginia Sheriff's Association Deputy Sheriff of the Year. He was recognized for his work with the county DARE program.

Three years in the making, the three-story, five-courtroom courthouse was dedicated Sept. 5.

September developments included moving the York County K-9 Training Area to a place behind the Waste Management Center on Goodwin Neck Road. Another step during the month was to approve semi-annual collection twice-yearly real property tax collections. Also, School Board members began appearing before the supervisors at each meeting to educate the governing body as to specific needs of the school system.

The state Air Pollution Control Board approved York County's Open Burning Ordinance on Thursday, Sept. 12. This smothered at last a year-long controversy about the privileges of burning leaves in the county. The changes went into effect immediately.

Also, that month, the board began a new procedure in which it interrupted whatever it was doing and began all public hearings at 8 p.m. This prevented having some wait as long as four hours to participate in the hearings.

By October, the county was "digging" zealously. It was, said Stuck and Jim Noel, executive director of the Industrial Development Authority, looking toward an economic boost from hundreds of acres known as the Fuel Farm. Stuck said, he has eyed the 452 acres adjacent to Water Country, Cheatham Annex, Route 199 and Colonial Parkway for nine years. The first step will eventually be to purchase

189 acres that will be used for economic development. Another 270 acres would be available in the future, if negotiations with the federal government develop.

And a newly created York County Library Foundation will raise capital funds and create endowments to aid growth of the still-planned library in Tabb. The 15-member group appointed by the York County Library Board of Trustees, will seek computers, printers, furniture and furnishings for a children's activity room, group and quiet study rooms and much more. The Board approved by a 3-2 vote to purchase 4.7 acres of Cook Road land adjacent to York High School for \$143,000. The board had turned down such a motion a year ago.

The Oct. 29 issue of The York Town Crier said the campaign for a seat in the House of Delegates was "a real sleeper." The awakening came at the polls when Davis defeated Cooper by a little more than 350 votes. Davis beat Cooper in York, King William and Gloucester counties. Independent candidate Rick Russell received about four percent of the vote. Davis would label herself "a shy little girl" from rural North Carolina.

November's leaves began falling in earnest as the 19-member jurisdictions of the Middle Peninsula Juvenile Detention Commission gathered to officially open the Merrimac Center Nov. 20. The five-acre tract is in eastern James City County, immediately adjacent to the new Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail.

Just before Thanksgiving the board denied permission for Mayer Sarfin to develop 28 acres of land off Yorkville Road. The Newport News-based attorney and developer who resides in York County quickly said the matter will be appealed. He had 90 days in which to take such steps, which he did. The vote was 4-1, Mills opposing. He said the major bone of contention was that protesting neighbors felt the project would be fine anywhere but in their backyard and were NIMBY-oriented. Sarfin agreed.

The board compiled a list of four items to presented state legislators at a Dec. 9 breakfast. The wish list included a request for a county small claims court.

And in the year's final board meeting, approval was given two requests for time share projects, one a luxury project that will include 1,100 units. The land is adjacent to Water Country.

YORK TOWN CRIER January 7 - 13, 1998

Story Time offered at county library

The Winter/Spring Story-Time session at the York County Public Library will begin the week of Jan. 19, with registration beginning on Monday, Jan. 12. Registration will be in person or by phone, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Space will be limited. This year, the following age groups will be organized:

- Time to Twos -- 2-year-olds
- Preschool Pals -- 3 to 5-year-olds
- Book Buddies -- 4 to 10-year-olds

The weekly schedule will be announced at a later date. For more information, or to register, call the library at 890-3377.

Crier Jan. 28, 1998

Free tax help for seniors offered

Help for the elderly comes in many forms. Once again, the volunteer tax aides from the American Association of Retired Persons Tax Counseling Program stand ready to help citizens over 60 who find filling out their federal and state forms a bewildering process.

The York County Public Library will have trained volunteers each Friday from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. from Feb. 6 to April 15.

Those seeking help should bring copies of their 1996 tax returns, forms for the current year, including W-2s, 1099s and any other material which shows additional 1997 income.

Tax assistance is provided free of charge and is intended to help low and moderate income older persons with their tax returns. Assistance may be provided to others, but senior citizens have first priority.

For more information, call Martha Miller at 898-3535.

York budget draws complaints

More money sought for schools, library

By Meredith Kruse
Daily Press

YORK York County Administrator Daniel Stuck predicted that no one would be happy with his 1998-99 budget proposal, and he wasn't too far off.

Once Stuck released his \$65.4 million budget plan Wednesday, the calls poured in to county supervisors.

Some residents want more money for the schools or the library the county plans to build. Others urged the board to continue resisting calls to raise property taxes.

The supervisors themselves had mixed reactions to Stuck's plan, which would increase general fund spending by 6 percent. The general fund determines how much residents pay in local taxes.

The largest increases would go to the schools (up \$2.1 million, or 10 percent), public safety (up \$480,000, or 4 percent), and financial and management services (up \$397,171, or 8 percent).

Despite pressure to raise taxes to give more money to the schools, most members said the schools are already getting a substantial boost.

"I would not push to put any more in until I get more details from the School Board," member James Funk said. School officials "are telling me that they've got no money for teachers, but they've got three projects that don't fit in to the Standards of Learning."

Those programs — Extend, the International Baccalaureate program, and the School of the Arts — serve the division's brightest students and are not required by the state, he

PROPOSAL

York County's 1998-99 budget proposal is on display at the county Administration Building in Yorktown and at public libraries in York County, Poquoson, Williamsburg and James City County.

A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. March 17 in the York High School auditorium.

Residents can comment on the budget at the public hearing and at Board of Supervisors meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

They can also call the 24-hour budget comment line at 890-3220 or visit the county's web site at www.co.york.va.us

Supervisors are scheduled to adopt a budget April 1.

noted. Yet the School Board proposed them but didn't include any money to hire additional teachers to reduce elementary school class sizes.

"I say, if you're going to run those programs, how can you possibly tell me you don't have enough money for teachers?" he asked.

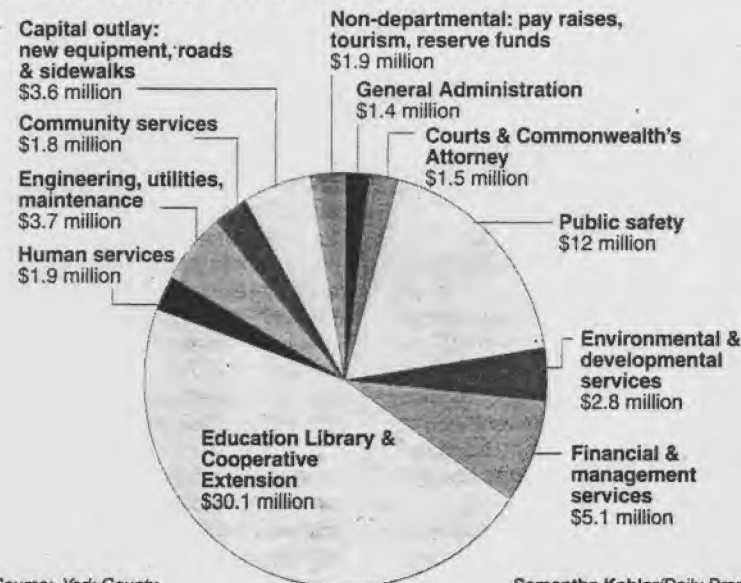
School Board member Donald Felling said the supervisors can give the schools another \$600,000 to \$700,000 without raising taxes.

Supervisors could free up some money by cutting a proposed cost-of-living increase for county and school workers from 2 percent to 1 percent, he said. The savings from school staff alone would be \$125,000, he said.

Supervisors Walter Zaremba and Jere Mills said that idea has merit, but Sheila Noll, who chairs the board, said employees deserve the full increase.

York County budget battles begin

This month, supervisors will debate the county's proposed 1998-99 budget and decide whether any programs deserve a larger (or smaller) slice of the \$65.4 million pie.



Source: York County

Samantha Kohler/Daily Press

She said she plans to press for more money for the county's new library, which is scheduled to open in July 1999.

Library officials gave Stuck two plans for buying books for the building:

■ A \$480,000 plan that would buy 20,000 books.

■ A \$700,000 plan that would buy 30,000 books.

Stuck's budget would give them \$169,000 — enough to buy about 6,700 books, said Janice Farley, who chairs the library's Board of Trustees.

"It's going to make both the libraries look like they're very scarce in books," she said. "We're going to have to seek out money from other sources. It's very embarrassing."

Zaremba offered his own suggestion for freeing up money: Scale back plans for renovating and expanding county offices. Stuck's proposal sets aside \$1.5 million next year for a new building on Goodwin Neck Road and for renovating the old courthouse and three county office buildings.

"What the heck kind of a priority is that, given the other priorities on our plate?" Zaremba asked. "That's clearly something we could, if we wanted to, revisit."

The board will discuss these and other suggestions at its first budget workshop on Wednesday.

Meredith Kruse can be reached at 247-7892.

Schools, library hearing targets

By Bob Moskowitz

Town Crier staff

The York County Board of Supervisors' Public Hearing at York High School on March 17 featured the usual heavy verbal bombardment from those seeking more financial support for the school system from the county.

There also are those like activist Carolyn Harris who claims "I have a problem that the schools are not using their money wisely. A good example is spending \$267,000 for an arts program for 150 kids."

Another section of people are seeking funding for the new library. Jan Farley is chairman of the York County Library Board of Trustees and she fears that there will be virtually no books in the Tabb

Library, when it opens next year.

School Board Chairman Jim Majka is proud that the schools' budget and the proposed county budget stack up, "closer than we've ever been."

Originally, budgets from the two boards were separated by over \$1 million dollars. By late last week, the split had narrowed to around \$300,000. School personnel and school children's parents lobbied hard at the Public Hearing for the supervisors to provide the difference in their final budget, due for approval April 1.

Majka is especially concerned about the pupil/teacher ratio in several schools. He says there are two situations in fourth and fifth grades

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"and everything else we're concerned with are" in the range from kindergarten through third grade."

Harris feels the supervisors' claim the last few years that there have been no tax raises is misleading. The increase in property assessments "is a tax raise," says the former president of the York County Business Association.

She also is concerned that there is a move on to ask the supervisors to increase the size of the proposed Tabb Library from 27,000 square

feet to 32,000. However, that isn't true, says Farley.

Books, or the need for them, are Farley's major concern right now.

She anticipated taking a shopping bag with 10 books to the public hearing. The plan was to show what would happen to the stack of 10 if three of them were taken out.

That, she says, is what is being planned for the York County Library. "We have 70,000 books now," she says. The plan is to take 30,000 of them and put them in Tabb.

"That way, both libraries will hurt." She also points out that the new library will be three times the size of the current library. "With that few books in it, it won't look ready to open."

Her complaint about this is that originally, the library board requested \$600,000 for stocking the new one. That plummeted to \$170,000.

She also claims "the library is more important than the schools' needs," because it affects every one, not just youngsters.

YORK TOWN CRIER March 18 - 24, 1998

Applause for York schools

Residents speak up at budget hearing

By Meredith Kruse
Daily Press

YORK

If York County supervisors used an applause meter to decide how to spend taxpayers' money, Tuesday's public hearing on the 1998-99 county budget would have been a clear victory for county schools.

Speaker after speaker called on the board to spend more money on education, earning lengthy applause from the approximately 60 people in the York High School auditorium. But when resident Maurice Piller stood up and declared that higher taxes wouldn't necessarily lead to better schools, he drew a weak trickle of claps.

Piller made his point where it counted, though.

After the hearing, board Chair Sheila Noll said she won't raise taxes to garner the extra \$304,000 school officials have requested from the county.

"If I can find additional funding, I will," she said, adding that she's waiting to see whether the state budget will include more money for schools.

The county's budget proposal already includes an increase of \$2.1 million, or 10 percent, in school funding — the biggest increase given to any county program. Overall, the general fund

Continued from C1

budget would rise by \$3.9 million, or 6 percent, to \$65.4 million.

The budget would not require a tax rate hike, although many residents will pay more in taxes next year due to a reassessment that raised property values.

Tuesday's hearing offered residents a chance to comment on the budget before supervisors adopt a final budget.

A few speakers lobbied for programs other than education.

Leland Kennedy, who chairs the York-Poquoson Board of Social Services, urged supervisors to give

his agency another \$18,000. If they don't, he said, the board might have to eliminate pay raises for employees and cut its general relief fund, which supports unemployed residents who don't receive any other public assistance.

HomeBase, a nonprofit agency that helps find housing for homeless people, would see its county funding cut from \$2,500 to \$1,000 next year. Agency Executive Director Anne Davis originally asked for a \$4,500 increase; now she told supervisors she just wants to avoid losing money.

Library Board President Jan Farley used a visual aid to make her pitch. Holding up a stack of books, she said if more money isn't added

to the budget, bookshelves may be only 70 percent full when the county opens its second library in Tabb next year.

If supervisors want to satisfy any of these requests without raising taxes, they have only a few options: cut other programs, dip into county reserve funds or take another look at next year's revenue projections to see if they can be raised.

Supervisors have scheduled four budget work sessions for the next two weeks, including one at 5 tonight at the county Finance Building in Yorktown. The board will adopt a final budget April 1.

Meredith Kruse can be reached at 247-7892.

DAILY PRESS

March 18, 1998

York seeks other funding for library

Foundation hopes to raise \$150,000 by 1999 opening

By Meredith Kruse
Daily Press

YORK

York County plans to open a new library in Tabb next year, but the county's budget includes only \$169,000 for buying books and other materials — much less than the \$480,000 to \$700,000 that librarians requested.

Library officials are turning to a new non-profit group, the York County Library Foundation, for help filling the shelves.

Formed in September, the foundation plans to raise a minimum of \$150,000 for the new library by the time it opens next summer, foundation President Marilyn Walter said.

"There is only so much money the county can give," said Walter, a retired microbiologist who also runs a family foundation. "We need to be more visionary than to just settle for the basics."

In addition to buying more books, donations to the foundation will pay for extras that the library might not otherwise be able to afford, she said. The group's wish list ranges from books on tape, at a cost of \$45 each, to a meeting room equipped with a sound system, video screen, stage and lectern for \$100,000.

Some items will simply make the library more comfortable, Walter said. Donations could provide cushioned chairs instead of folding chairs for meeting rooms, a cappuccino maker for a coffee bar, maybe even a fireplace.

A growing number of public libraries are



Dave Bowman/Daily Press

"There is only so much money the county can give. We need to be more visionary than to just settle for the basics."

Marilyn Walter
foundation
president

TO LEARN MORE

The York County Library Foundation will hold an information session to preview plans for the new library at 7 p.m. on April 24 at the county courthouse, 300 Ballard St.

For details on donations, call the York County Library at 890-3375.

turning to foundations to raise money for everything from books to branches.

"It's hard for localities to pick up all the costs. Having a foundation helps out," said I z a b e l a Cieszynski, director of libraries and

information services in Newport News. Library officials there want to raise more money for big-ticket items, such as an endowment for book purchases, and are considering whether to use an existing Friends of the Library group or start a foundation. Friends groups tend to run small fund-raising projects,

such as used book sales, while foundations solicit major donations of \$50,000 or more, often through estates or bequests.

The Williamsburg Regional Library Foundation formed six years ago and has raised more than \$300,000, much of which outfitted the James City County Library when it opened in 1996, Library Director Patsy Hansel said. Since 1995, the Hampton Public Library Foundation has raised \$22,000, which will be used to help the city build more library branches, Library Director Douglas Perry said.

The York foundation has already raised \$20,000, Walter said. The foundation has applied for tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service, so donations are tax deductible. Outfitting the Tabb library will be the group's first project, but she said the foundation plans to keep raising money to benefit both county libraries.

Meredith Kruse can be reached at 247-7892 and by e-mail at MKruse@dailypress.com.

Daily Press Wed. April 8, 1998

BOOK NOTES



Will Molineux

DISHER TO RELATE ANNAPOLIS EXPERIENCE. Sharon Hanley Disher, a graduate of the Naval Academy who lives in Yorktown, is the author of "First Class: Women Join The Ranks at The Naval Academy" (Naval Institute Press, 363 pages, \$29.95), and she will speak about her book and her career as an officer in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the meeting room of the York County Public Library, 8500 George Washington Highway. Disher, a native of Portsmouth, N.H., was a 1980 graduate of Annapolis and, among other assignments, was officer in charge of Construction Battalion (Seabee) Unit 414 in New London, Conn., the second woman in the Navy to hold such a position. She resigned her commission in 1990 to devote time to her husband, Cmdr. Timothy A. Disher, and their three children. In her book, Disher focuses on two female midshipmen and offers, according to the Naval Institute Press, "an unparalleled eyewitness perspective of her classmates' dizzying emotional gauntlet of confused gender roles, hazing, academic overload, illicit love affairs and women and men facing heightened social and professional challenges in a closed, ritualistic society designed to prepare them for military life." Her talk, sponsored by the York County Library in observance of Library Week, is free and open to the public. For more information, call 890-3377.

YORK TOWN CRIER

April 22 - 28, 1998

Spring sale slated for county library

A book sale will be held at the York County Public Library this weekend, Friday through Sunday, April 24 to 26. The sale opens with a Friends' sale on Friday, April 24, from 3 to 8 p.m. Memberships to the organization will be available at the door.

The regular sale, which is open to the public, is set for Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and concludes on Sunday, April 26, from 1 to 5 p.m. All books on sale are used, with most being in excellent condition.

At this time, some books are available with old copyright and publication dates. This fact may interest some book collectors.

Proceeds from the sale, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Library, make special events possible at the library. These include the children's summer reading program, observance of National Library Week, or the purchase of needed equipment.

CITIZEN NEWS Summer 1998, Vol. 19, No. 2

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The York County Public Library is preparing for a fun-filled Summer Reading Program. The program's theme this year is "Go Wild with Books" It will begin the week of June 22nd and continue through August 7th. There will be three weekly groups - "Preschool Pals" (2-3 year olds), "Toddler Time" (3-5 year olds), and "Terrific Tuesdays" (school aged). The library will also be offering some "Family Story-time Specials" (Saturday and evening). Registration will begin June 15th for all programs, some sessions will be limited. Dates and times for all programs will be announced later. Any questions, please call Tammy Strickland at the library at 890-3377.

Major Foundation Projects

The Foundation is sponsoring a campaign to raise \$500,000 to enhance the new library and to improve the entire library system. The goal is to help fund more library services for more citizens.

Future Projects -

- *Enlarge the book collection*
- *Update the computer system*
- *Increase computer access for more citizens in the community*
- *Secure funds for long-term projects and acquisitions*



*Checks may be made payable to:
The York County Library Foundation
a tax exempt public
509 (a) (1) foundation*

*For more information contact:
York County Library Services
George Washington Highway
Yorktown, Va 23692
(757)890-3375*

York County Library Foundation



*The Library is the
Doorway to Learning.*

York County Library Foundation

Since opening in 1968, the York County Public Library has been, and continues to be, an integral part of the community. As the population grows, so do the needs of the library services. Financial help is essential to continue these high standards of quality for the future of the entire system. The York County Library Foundation was created as a non-profit 509 (a) organization for the long-term advancement of library services.

The mission of the York County Library Foundation is to raise funds for long-term and continuous needs of library services. The Foundation will enhance the library by receiving endowments, private and corporate contributions, and grants. Through wise investments, the Foundation will be able to distribute income for acquisitions, innovations and special projects not provided by other means.



How Are Contributions Made?

Contributions may be made to the York County Library Foundation in the form of cash, securities or other assets. Your donation will provide tax benefits for you, while offering exciting opportunities for future growth! Possible contribution could include, but are not limited to one of the following suggestions:

Gifts/Bequests

\$10,000 - Gold Patron
\$5,000 - Silver Patron
\$1,000 - Bronze Patron
\$500 - Honorary Patron

Perpetual Book Fund

A fund to help add books yearly to the libraries on a given topic of interest.

Bricks for Books

A \$150 gift, which will help to purchase bricks for a commemorative walkway.

Adopt-A-Book

A short term project for local clubs and organizations wanting to help with increasing the volume of books.

Contributions or Pledges may be designated for the following:

- Books, Books on Tape, Periodicals and Special Magazine
- Purchase of Computers, Printers for Media Stations and Offices
- Library Furniture
- Group Study Room Furniture
- Quiet Study Room Furniture
- Meeting Room Equipment: Sound System Screen, and Lecturn
- Landscaping and Plants

YORK TOWN CRIER
MAY 6-12, 1991



York Town Crier photos by Beth Melaner

Book Sale

The Friends of the York County Public Library held their semi-annual book sale recently, and the two day-event brought in scores of happy book shoppers. Proceeds from the regular sales benefit library programs sponsored by the Friends, including children's programs. Above, Friend Kitty Insley explains the price structure to a buyer. At left, this young shopper proves it's never too early to add to the old home library.



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
APRIL 19-25, 1998











Dictionaries donated

Members of the York Republican Women's Club donated six foreign language picture dictionaries to the York County Public Library during National Library Week recently. The need for these books, in English, German, Spanish, Hebrew, Japanese and Italian, proves that York County is getting smaller. The Republican Women wanted to support diversity and show appreciation for the ethnic influence in the locality. Library Director Beverly Dudley, left, accepts the dictionaries from club members Sheila Noll and Mary Clark.

YORK TOWN CRIER MAY 16-17, 1998

DAILY PRESS May 14, 1998

People

■ The York County Board of Supervisors has presented its annual outstanding volunteer awards to people who donated their time to county agencies and committees.

The winners are: **Julia Jensen**, producer of the "Health Beat" television show; **Genette Micale** of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Victim Witness Assistance Program; **Dr. James Shaw** and **Russell Lockley**, who run a free medical clinic in Lackey; **Diane Short**, a Virginia Cooperative Extension educator; **St. Clair "Skip" Spaugh**, member of the county cable television franchise negotiating team; **Clare Stiff**, a library volunteer; **Jake Zalumas**, a Treasurer's Office volunteer; **R. Sidney Barrett Jr.**, chairman of the county industrial development authority; foster parents **Michael and Vera Bikowski**; **Terry Counts** of the county mosquito control program; youth sports coaches **Tim and Sharon Disher**; **Carole Ferro** of the county beautification committee; the late **Gloria Furby**, a longtime volunteer with many civic groups; and **Margie Harris** and **Clyde Jackson** of the Senior Center of York.

Volunteers honored

When Rick Smethurst presented York County with a large likeness of a check for \$1.2 million for 1997 donated goods and services, he spread the credit throughout those who contributed 83,000 hours of services.

That was at the Board of Supervisors' May 6 meeting in the Finance Building and, while the recreation supervisor did point to 18 special volunteers, there also was a surprise honoree.

She was Diane Fulton, community relations coordinator, who was described as "the heart and soul of volunteers" before receiving a plaque and large bouquet.

Smethurst said the 18 "represent all our volunteers." He also noted that one of them, Gloria Furby, received a posthumous award, a tree planted in her memory on Recreation Department land on Wolftrap Road.

1997 Outstanding Volunteers Serving York County honored were:

•R. Sidney Barrett Jr.: Longtime service and leadership with the Industrial Development authority;

nominated by James Noel, Executive Director, IDA.

•Michael and Vera Bikowski: Dedicated service with the Foster Parent Program; nominated by Cheryl Ferreira and Nancy Young, York-Poquoson Social Services.

•Terry Counts: Volunteer with the County's Mosquito Control Program; nominated by Thomas Gallagher, Mosquito Control, Department of Environmental and Development Services.

•Tim and Sharon Disher: Coaches for youth sports; nominated by Tim Garner, Parks and Recreation, Department of Community Services.

•Carole Ferro: Work with York County Beautification Committee; nominated by Laurie Halperin, Waste Management, Department of Environmental and Development Services.

•Gloria M. Furby: Posthumous award for work with the Darby-Firby Neighborhood Corporation and lifetime commitment to volunteer service in the County; award to be received by her husband, James

L. Furby; nominated by Anne B. Smith, Director, Department of Community Services.

•Margie Harris and Clyde Jackson: Work with the Senior Center of York; nominated by Anne B. Smith, Director, Department of Community Services.

•Julia Jensen: Produces and hosts "Health Beat"; nominated by Marilyn Belyea, Home Health Services, Department of Community Services.

•Genette Micale: Work with the Victim/Witness Assistance Program; nominated by Barbara Seibert, Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

•James Shaw and Russell Lockley: Volunteer medical services at Family Health Care Center, located

Teen volunteers sought at library

Teen volunteers are being sought at the York County Public Library.

Applications are available to anyone 13 years of age or older.

Volunteers will be placed in suitable positions, if available, after a review of the applications and an interview. Positions are limited.

Some possible jobs include preparing materials for Storytime, running copies, setting up for programs, shelving books and helping with bulletin boards. The application deadline for summer activities is Friday, June 5. Interviews will be conducted the week of June 8.

For more information, call the York County Public Library at 890-3377.

at the Charles Brown Park Community Services Center; nominated by Marilyn Belyea, Home Health Services, Department of Community Services.

•Diane Short: Volunteer natural resources educator; nominated by James Orband, Unit Coordinator, Virginia Cooperative Extension.

•St. Clair "Skip" Spough: Citizen member of Cable Television Franchise Negotiating Team; nominated by John Carl, Office of Community Relations and Service Improvement.

•Clare Stiff: Longtime volunteer service with the York County Library; nominated by Janice Ward.

•Jake Zalumas: Volunteer work for the Treasurer's Office; nominated by Arlene D. Pollard, Treasurer.

New library work is all wet

By Bob Moskowitz

Town Crier staff

Although the item was passed unanimously, approval of a deadline extension on clearing and basic infrastructure work in preparation of the future Tabb library site created a mild stir at the June 3 York County Board of Supervisors' meeting in the Finance Building.

It also resulted in declaration by Assistant to the County Administrator Mark Carter that the "drop dead date" for parts of such work is Aug. 1. Major work includes construction of a temporary diversion ditch to the Route 134 right of

way.

In his presentation to the board, County Administrator Danny Stuck explained that extremely wet winter and spring weather prevented the property owner, George L. Smith Jr., from readying the land for construction.

The work started in December 1997, and was to have been completed by June 1.

Basically, the land was too wet for completion of even logging operations and other activities involved with installation of sewer, water and drainage systems.

What the board approved was an

agreement for final completion by Dec. 31. However, Carter explained that if certain phases aren't finished by Aug. 1, York County can step in and do the work itself "and keep funding costs from the contractor."

Stuck did point out that "we couldn't have done the work either. There was no dragging of feet."

The actual contract work is out for bids now. The sewer will tie into Tabb Lakes and the drainage flow will go behind the Library site to Coventry Lake. Clearing, said Carter, has started and hopefully logging removal began this week.

The resolution, one of two additions, was one of four on the calendar, but was the only one pulled for discussion.

It was a night in which no item presented was defeated, but two passed by only a 3-2 margin and another included lengthy discussion because of "an unusual situation."

The two one-vote decisions concerned approving use of a grinder pump (see story elsewhere this page) and passage of a criticized zoning change that would enable 7-Eleven to open a store with a gas station across from the Washington

Square Shopping Center.

Supervisor Al Meadows opened the gates to controversy over what seemed to be an innocuous item after it appeared the board had ended its questioning of Chief Planner Bob Baldwin. Chair Sheila Noll had closed questioning when Meadows expressed "concern over the number of gas stations" on that portion of Route 17. He pointed out that one had closed recently.

Walt Zaremba then led what turned into a chorus of "I'm glad

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Wet

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you mentioned that."

Although only Meadows and Walt Zaremba voted against passage of the resolution, it appeared that the board unanimously would love to alter the looks of Route 17.

Approving the opening of another gas station and convenience store, they all agreed, is not being done by choice. As a result, they called on Industrial Development Authority Executive Director Jim Noel for assistance and guidance. "Give us options, so we know what we can do," said Jere Mills.

Actually, the wheels for such help have been turning for a while in the form of a committee of residents and business owners to ponder just such problems. They finished six months ago, but the report hasn't been finalized by Noel.

A major obstacle in the path of jazzing up the looks and type of businesses on the road is that the road was shaped some 40 to 45 years ago, when lots were allowed to extend only 250 feet from the road. Buildup beyond that has been plentiful, leaving virtually no room for projects that require more space.

This item was one of three requiring public hearings and one of those was simply a matter of unopposed procedure to vacate a line between lots of York Wayside subdivision on Route 143.

The other provided the "unusual situation," but passed unanimously, although it received extensive discussion. The application was simply to approve an amendment in

recreation facilities for Williamsburg Bluffs, which would reduce the number of tennis courts from two to one and downsizing the size of a swimming pool.

However, the board and staff were concerned that the matter had to come up at all. It was caused by failure of previous ownership. Two attorneys participated in the talks, one for the community association, the other for Blue Phoenix, Inc., current owner. The lawyer for Williamsburg Bluffs, Susan Harley, said this request "is a compromise that benefits the association."

Elizabeth White, representing Blue Phoenix, said the new agreement will "provide a guaranteed funding process that is missing now."

One of the complications was pointed out by Zaremba. "There is no assurance there will be a third developer," he said. Carter agreed, but he pointed out that "this new arrangement guarantees that even if no more lots go to record, the commitment is made to have a recreational facility. The way it is without this resolution we couldn't change things."

NOTES: Meadows and Zaremba made a point of complimenting students from their district for competitive success both in studies and athletics . . . Supervisor Jim Funk reminded that hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30. He said for more information, residents should call 890-3600 . . . Chair Sheila Noll announced that Public Information Officer John Carl is re-

covering from surgery "and we hope he returns to work soon." . . .

County Attorney Bill Hackworth said that the General Assembly has added about a dozen statutes to control jet skis, but that they won't go into effect until Jan. 1, 1999. He said the craft "are becoming more of a problem . . . because there is little on the books now to prohibit reckless operation. The age limit will be 16, but those 14 can operate the jet skis if they first pass a state test." A key change will be that all game wardens as well as deputies can enforce the new laws and existing ones . . . Hackworth urged dissatisfied Cox Communications customers to call 595-6969, extension 241. "Call Cox or call us in the county," if they aren't meeting their requirements, he said. "We have verified that there have been inordinate delays in answering calls . . . and that shouldn't happen." . . .

For the second year, the York County Beautification Committee's School Beautiful awards were presented by Carole Ferro to: Dare and Grafton-Bethel elementary schools, Tabb Middle School and York High School. Those schools receive a plaque placed outside the buildings. Also, Dare and Grafton-Bethel won the environmental awards, with each receiving a VCR . . .

The supervisors will hold a work session Wednesday, June 10, at 6 p.m. in the Finance Building and will concentrate on the land use program.

'Let me count the ways' library volunteers needed

By Bob Moskowitz
Town Crier staff

How do I volunteer?

Let me count the ways.

I volunteer to the depth

and breadth and height

my soul can reach,

when books are out of sight

to the ends of all our shelves.

(With deepest apologies to
Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

It's easy to say: "Volunteer to help out the library."

But what does that mean?

To Janice Ward, a Newport News resident who is the Head of Circulation in the York County Public Library, it means helping cope with an endless array of tasks that simply make it easier for patrons of the library to use that facility.

In one way, relief is coming a year from now when construction of the Tabb library is completed. But that simply will provide the

need for more volunteers. And right now, the need is severe.

Currently, about two dozen adults and several teens contend with a multiplicity of tasks. If anyone is familiar with, and understands, the need for help it is Ward, who volunteered for two years at the old library site in Grafton Shopping Center.

For the past 18 years she has worked full time for the library. She contends with overseeing both adults and school-age volunteers who do everything imaginable from helping children's programs and providing elementary school students with home educational tasks to straightening and maintaining order on the shelves.

There is so much else -- answering phones, weeding out the pamphlet file, handling book sales, maintaining a calendar, editing a newsletter. The list persists no matter what time of the year.

"The fun thing," says Ward is in

arts and crafts. That means maintaining bulletin boards and providing name tags for children, usually the ones attending story hour.

"There is so much we'd like to do, but we can't if we don't have the volunteers," she says.

There is always the desire to make bulletin boards more attractive and the specter of inventory is endless. Now, the latter is more important than ever "because we need to find out what books we want to keep and what books we want to move to the new library."

She says about a quarter of the current books will be moved, partially because "we have an overflow now . . . and that's one of the many reasons we need a new library."

One of the functions of her position is to coordinate volunteers, but it isn't a separate position. In her words, "I dig up some of them and some just walk through the door."

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Library

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"We do recruit by advertising."

Currently the library is taking applications for teen volunteers. The interviews began this past Monday. Hopefully, about 20 youngsters will be summertime volunteers.

Hours for all the volunteers vary from as few as two hours a week to as many as 15.

Some of the stalwarts of Ward's group include Volunteer of the Year Clare Stiff, Martha Dowling and Kitty Ensley. All three have been with the library since before it opened at its current Route 17 site

in 1984.

"It's becoming more difficult to get volunteers," Ward says, "because so many more people are working." The result is that more volunteers than ever are seniors.

Volunteers are basically all similar. Just like Ward, they come because they like books. "That's the biggest draw for our people. They like being around books."

To do that is simple. Just telephone 890-3377 or pick up an application form at the library desk. And then you can help in so many ways. Let me count the ways . . . Oh, well -- you get the idea.

Library's price tag drops

Cost now estimated
at \$2.95 million

By Meredith Kruse
Daily Press

YORK
York County may not have to scrimp on space and parking for its new library in Tabb.

County officials estimated it would cost as much as \$3.2 million to build the library, but the low bid from Oyster Point Construction of Newport News came in at \$2.9 million, said Robert Kraus, the county's director of general services.

To save money, the county had considered shrinking the building from 32,000 square feet to 27,000 square feet and building 166 parking spaces instead of 199. But now that the price tag has dropped, Kraus said he'll recommend supervisors build the larger library and parking lot, for a total construction cost of \$2.95 million.

"We're very pleased with the bids," he said Monday. "They were very competitive."

The Tabb library will be York's second. The rapidly growing county has outgrown its existing library on Route 17 outside Yorktown.

Despite the break on construction costs, Kraus said he will ask supervisors to come up with more money to pay for the new building.

Supervisors originally set aside \$4.6 million to buy the land off Hampton Highway, build the library and outfit it with furniture and computers. The library's collection of books and other items will cost extra.

The original estimate was based on a 25,000-square-foot building, Kraus said. By last fall, the library had swelled in size, and the project architects warned supervisors that \$4.6 million would probably not cover the cost of building and equipping it. At that time, they said they would need another \$397,000 to \$592,000.

Kraus said he now plans to ask supervisors for an additional \$480,000. Although the county will save about \$260,000 on construction, Kraus said he's added a 5 percent contingency fee to cover unexpected construction costs. That totals about \$150,000, which offsets the savings.

Sheila Noll, who chairs the Board of Supervisors, said she thinks her colleagues will agree to take the additional money from the county's capital fund and build the larger version of the library.

"I believe that the support is there, because it only makes sense," said Noll, who also serves on the Library Board.

The extra 5,000 square feet will allow the library to boost its collection size by one-third, to 130,000 volumes, and nearly double its seating capacity, to 150. It amounts to

\$136,000 of the construction cost.

"If we were to go back and add on at a later date," Noll said, "it would cost us ever so much more."

Supervisor Walter Zaremba said he hasn't made up his mind whether to support the request for more money.

"I think we ought to be farsighted with this library," he said, but he added that he wants a full explanation of the bids first.

Supervisors are expected to discuss the extra money at July 15.

In the meantime, the York County Library Foundation has stepped up fund raising to buy books and other materials for the new library. The county budget includes \$169,000 for such purchases, but librarians want \$480,000 to \$700,000.

Over the July 4 holiday, foundation volunteers launched a "bricks for books" drive, said Marilyn Walter, president of the non-profit foundation. For each \$100 donation, the foundation will place a brick in the new library's courtyard inscribed with the name of the donor or of a person he or she wants to honor.

The foundation wants to raise \$150,000 by the time the library opens next summer. So far, it's taken in more than \$25,000, Walter said.

Meredith Kruse can be reached at 247-7892 and by e-mail at mkruse@dailypress.com

Library bid goes before board July 15

By Bob Moskowitz

Town Crier staff

The lowest of 14 bids for construction of the \$4.7 million Tabb library will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at their July 15 meeting.

The 32,000 square foot building will cost about \$91 a square foot, slightly lower than anticipated. The overall package, including everything but furnishings and technol-

ogy, will run about \$119 a square foot, said Bob Kraus, Director of General Services.

None of the figures, including the total cost, includes cost of books, something the York County Library Foundation is striving to provide.

"I'm really pleased on the number of bids and the closeness of them," said Kraus.

Once behind schedule because of

the long and heavy winter rains, the project now is pretty much on time and construction is expected to start by mid-August, said John Hudgins, manager of engineering and facility maintenance. That, of course, depends on the bid being approved by the supervisors.

Hudgins said the large number of bids and their closeness "is a reflection that . . . the specifications and construction drawings were well

done."

Low bid went to Oyster Point Construction of Newport News.

The month between anticipated approval by the supervisors and construction's start is necessary to complete a good deal of paperwork.

The dry summer weather is enabling workers to remove a large number of logs from the area behind the library plot and in the area

of the adjacent development, Greenlands. The latter is being build by Harvey Weinstein's Commonwealth Co. of Hampton.

County officials have said that Weinstein's work on drainage have helped the project progress speedily. They say that includes his work on a sedimentation pond for the library and a series of them in his development.

With year to go, Tabb library fever rises

By Bob Moskowitz
Town Crier staff

When the Board of Supervisors approved an additional \$480,000 for construction of a new Tabb library some 32,000 square feet in size two weeks ago, it did much more than that. The OK also put into motion an almost endless series of preparatory steps, a good number of which already were under way and some of which are slated for future startups.

Board Chair Sheila Noll thinks that with a break in the weather and the proper readying steps by the library and county staffs, the new building could make it in time for a slam-bang July 4 opening in 1999. However, more conservative officials think it would be more practical to expect the structure ready for the reading public in August, just in time for the opening of that school year.

Another of the many items eliciting enthusiasm from Library Board member Noll is the matter of roads. She points to fairly new connecting roads between Tabb Lakes, Coventry and the new development under construction adjacent to where the library will rise. "They will enable scores of children to ride their bikes to the library safely."

While construction preparations, such as clearing the land and installation of infrastructure have been under way for months, groundbreaking for actual construction

can't begin until official notice to proceed has been given. That isn't expected for another 10 days or two weeks.

In the meantime, Library Director Beverly Dudley and Acting Assistant Librarian Norma Colton constantly attack a daily line of challenges. Currently, the library force is identifying 20,000 books, some of which will be stored before being transferred from the current overcrowded library to the Tabb structure.

"We're also receiving a lot of good donations of books and putting them in storage at a rental facility," says Dudley.

Then there is the decision on how to move the books. "There are all kinds of ways to do that," she says. One could be the use of volunteers. "Either way, it will be a difficult task."

The task increases when you consider that the library will also purchase many new books, and that number won't be known for a while. In the meantime, book supply companies will provide lists of recommended volumes, based on what the current library has and the size of the new library and on what funding will be available.

The York County Library Foundation is raising funds for that purpose and until a specific amount is targeted, the number of new books

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As for the fund raising, the foundation "is just getting geared up. What they've raised so far is just a drop in the bucket." She says the foundation now is targeting businesses and organizations, instead of individuals.

None of this is simple. Consider that each section of the library must decide which books to move and which books should be repeated in the new building. "Especially in the reference section, a lot of those books are really expensive. For instance, one set of three can cost \$700," says Dudley.

Another major challenge is readying computers and their systems. Of course, the library staff won't handle that as much as the York County Computer Support System, headed by Adam Frisch and computer expert David Cannon, who recently attended an American Library Association seminar on automation.

Dudley anticipates nearly three dozen computers in the new library, but the number hasn't yet been approved, which right now is par for the course. She says a major hope is that all computers in the building will have Internet capability.

While the existing library continues to function, the library staff and the county staff meet regularly to discuss the on-going process.

Another item to be dealt with concerns staff. "Some of our regular customers are concerned that we'll snatch away all our regular staff," says Dudley. Not true. "We plan to use reference, circulation and children's personnel in both libraries on an alternating basis," she says. On the other hand, those who process and order books will work in one building or the other on a permanent basis.

Currently, library furnishings and interior designing are being worked on by an interior designer hired by Magoon and Associates of Williamsburg, the architect handling the project. "We haven't seen the final selection, but we know they're getting close," Dudley says.

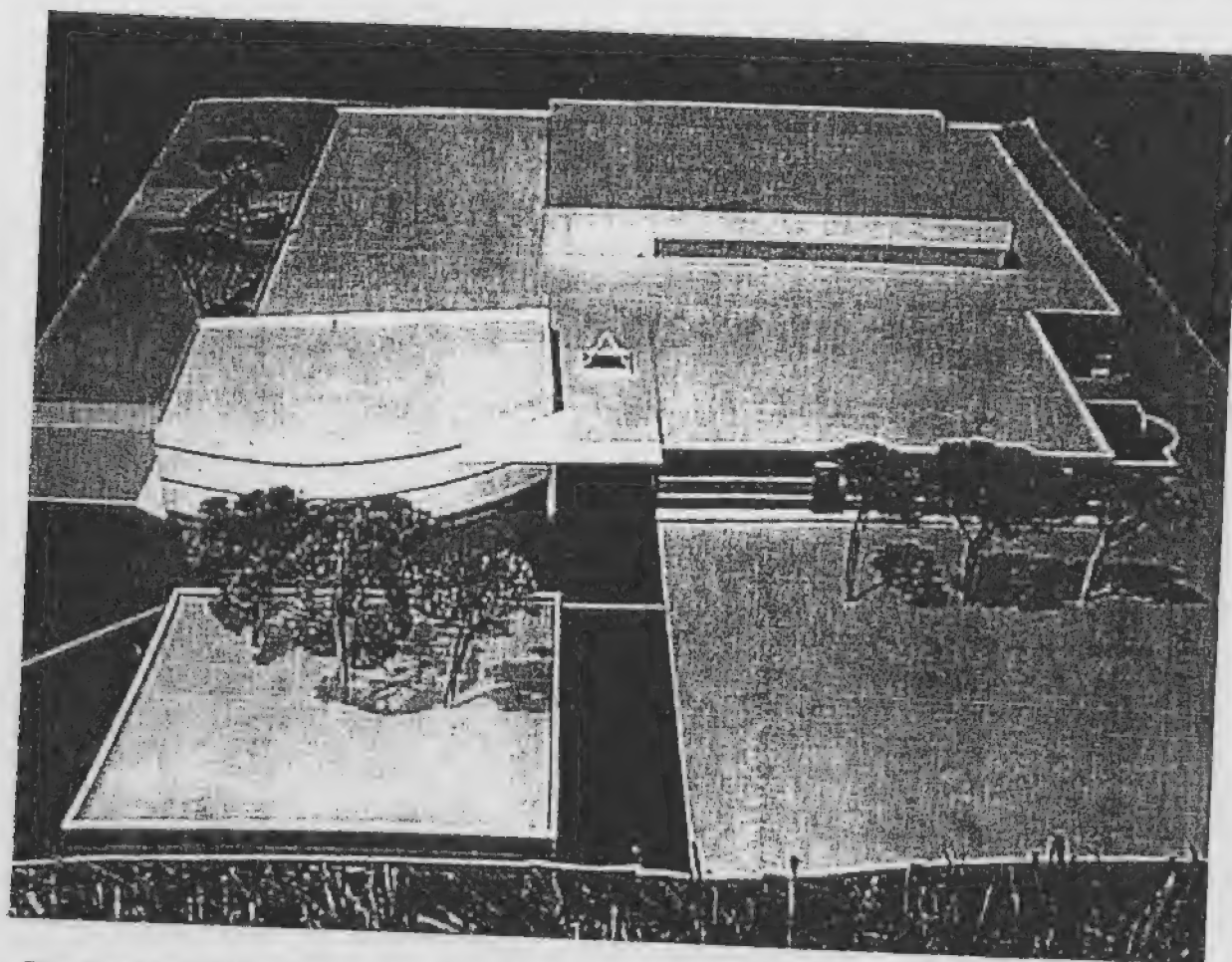
Library

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remains indefinite. What Dudley hopes for, but isn't counting on, is having all the new books delivered to the new library. That, like so

much of the planning, remains indefinite.

If that should prove a reality, she says, "then moving the stored books would only be half the job it might be."



This three-dimensional model of the Tabb Library shows architectural features which add interest to the structure, as well as some of the proposed landscaping which will enliven the exterior.

Courtesy photo



Photo by Joy Barefoot

Kyle Rowley and Dawn Rowley, left, 'Hammer-A-Wreck' to benefit the new county library. At right, Lizz Rowley and

Marilyn Walter, President of the York County Library Foundation, look on at Tabb's One Stop Auto

One Stop Auto Collision Center opens

By Lois Chesley
Town Crier staff

Chip and Lizz Rowley held a Grand Opening of their One Stop Auto Collision Center at 2611 George Washington Memorial Highway in Tabb recently. The event featured NASCAR Driver

Gordon Weeks, along with Spiderman Larry McBride and his Nitro Bike.

In addition, there were flowers for Moms, a DARE I-Dent-A-Kid table, entertainment and refreshments. Visitors also came to get a glimpse of what the new York

County Library will look like, and for a donation, they could Hit/Hammer-A-Wreck for the York County Library Foundation. Foundation members will buy books and other materials for the new facility in Tabb.

The Yorktown facility is the sec-

ond location for One Stop Auto -- the other being at 7210 Warwick Blvd., Newport News. Hours of operation for both are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. The telephone for the York County location is 865-4500.

Look up a helping hand

York Library volunteer can help you find a book, or your family

By Gwendolyn Crump
Daily Press

YORK

Clare Stiff likes the quiet of the York County Public Library. But in the catalog room of the library, it is not always quiet.

Phones ring. The copier runs. And the sound of books being shuffled fills the air.

It's not a noisy place to work. But there is also no one telling people to "shhh" like on the main floor.

Stiff, a volunteer, stamps books, puts jackets on them, and catalogs them using the Dewey decimal system.

"I just love watching the new books come in," Stiff said.

Beverly Dudley, director of the library, said Stiff is a tremendous asset.

"Libraries are always short staffed," Dudley said. Stiff worked at the library a number of years ago. "She is especially knowledgeable, and we didn't have to train someone new," Dudley said.

Stiff worked for the library for 11 years, before retiring. Before that she worked for the Library of Congress in its catalog division.

She started at the York County Public Library in the late 1970s, when the library was in Grafton.

"It was an old storefront in the Grafton shopping center," Stiff said. "We didn't have much room."

The library on George Washington Highway, where Stiff volunteers on Tuesdays, opened in 1984.

The county has plans to build a library in Tabb to serve the lower end of the county, where the population is on the rise. It will cost about \$3 million to build.

Stiff retired soon after the current library was built, but she has been a volunteer ever since her retirement.

She also has maintained her interest in genealogy at the library.

"I got into it quite by accident," Stiff said.

She said she used to keep track of the books when she worked there. Stiff estimates there are 1,000 books on genealogy in the library's collection.

So when people have questions about tracing relatives, they are passed on to her. She has received letters from people all over the country.

"The staff doesn't have time to answer all the questions, so I help out," Stiff said.

She has watched libraries go from card catalog to automated systems for searching for books.

Stiff said that when the library went to computers, a lot of older people would come in with their children, who would help them find things.

"These days most people are familiar enough with computers to find their own way around the library," Stiff said. But there is still so much work that goes on there.

"It takes a lot of hard work to make a place efficient and pleasant when it's open seven days a week," Stiff said.



Clare Stiff volunteers her time at the York County Library on Route 17. She worked at the library for 11 years, before retiring, and now volunteers many hours at the facility.
Kenneth D. Lyons/Daily Press

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

■ The York County Public Library benefited from the contributions of 91 volunteers in 1997, including members of the Friends of the Library organization, county officials reported. Last year the library's volunteers contributed more than 3,250 hours of service. They performed numerous duties, including checking and shelving books, and helping with story hours. Interested in volunteering? Please call 890 3377

CLARE STIFF

WHAT: York County Public Library volunteer
AGE: 77
EDUCATION: Bachelor of arts in English from George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
HOBBIES: Crossword puzzles
FAMILY: Husband, Bill; four children, seven grandchildren

Gwendolyn Crump can be reached by phone at 247-4756 or at gcrump@dailypress.com

Images



Jan Farley, Chairman of the York County Public Library Board of Trustees stands by her display during the recent Autumn Fest 1998. She was offering personalized bricks to enhance the new library in Tabb. The picture was taken by York Town Crier staff photographer Lois Chesley. Pictures of local faces and places are welcomed for publication in this space. Send them to P.O. Box 978, Yorktown 213692.

Library Card Sign-Ups in progress

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month for Kids at the York County Public Library. If you have a library card, go to the library Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., check out a book and receive a surprise.

If you need a library card, go to the library, sign up for one and receive a special prize. Children age 4 and up must use their own library cards to check out books.

For more information, see Kristen Kirwan in the Children's Section of the library, or call her at 890-3377.

Library celebrates kids birthdays

The York County Public Library wants to celebrate children's birthdays at the library. Kids are invited to visit the Children's Section Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during their birthday month.

They will be invited to make a cake for the Birthday Board and draw from a prize box.

For more information, visit Kristen Kirwan, or call her at 890-3377.

September 15, 1998

BOOKS TO BORROW, BOOKS TO BUY

Kendal Rautzhan

Not every children's book is worthwhile

With one exception, this column is devoted to finding and reviewing the best children's literature available in your library and local bookstore. The primary purpose is to help you zero in on quality material for you to read to your children; and in doing so, help your children establish a lifelong love of reading and learning.

The exception is my annual list of the 10 worst books I've read in that particular year. For 51 weeks we focus on the best. On the last week in November we focus on the worst. Frankly, I wish there wasn't a need for a dog list. If all children's books were at least mediocre or better, there would be nothing to complain about. However, when I read something that really rubs me the wrong way, I think the consumer should be warned.

As I see it, children's writers and book publishers have a responsibility to put forth the best possible material they can find because children are the most impressionable and vulnerable audience on the market. Furthermore, in good faith, the adult population spends their hard-earned money in purchasing what they assume is something of value for a child they love. I think they deserve to get what they pay for. When I read really poorly written books, books with a twisted, negative story line, or books that make no sense or leave the reader dangling, it makes me furious. Throughout the year I collect the real bow-wows and decide which

to include in my annual report.

Can you help? As I've requested in the past, I need your help in sniffing out the dregs of the children's book publishing industry. If you've read a recent publication that you think might belong on this list, please let me know. Write to me and give me the name of the book, the author, the publisher and date it was published. Tell me why you object to the book, or better yet, if it's that bad, send it to me so I can read it.

Thanks for your help, and I'll look forward to hearing from you.

BOOKS TO BORROW

The following book is available to borrow from many public libraries.

FIN M'COUL, THE GIANT OF KNOCKMANY HILL

■ retold and illustrated in color by Tomie dePaola

■ Holiday House, 32 pages

■ Read aloud: age 3 and older

■ Read yourself: age 7/8 and older

Long ago in Ireland, giants lived among the glens and woods alongside fairies and leprechauns. One of the finest of the big folk was Fin M'Coul, and he was wed to the lovely giant lass, Oonagh.

Fin M'Coul was a kind and gentle soul and despite his size hadn't a mean bone in his body. His docile demeanor had Fin on a constant lookout for the strongest and meanest giant in Ireland: Cucullin. For years Cucullin had chased Fin. Every giant in Ireland had been flattered by Cucullin, and Cucullin swore he'd never rest until he had added Fin M'Coul to his list.

When Fin heard Cucullin was in the neighborhood looking for him, Fin ran home to his wife to try and escape harm. Fortunately Oonagh

was a brave and clever lass. She devised a plan which began by having Fin put on some giant baby clothes and get into the cradle. Then she told Fin to do everything she said. With that there came a thunderous knocking at their door.

In his usual entertaining literary and artistic style, Tomie dePaola has once again created a tale that will demand repeated performances.

LIBRARIAN'S CHOICE

■ Library: York County Public

Library, 8500 George Washington Highway, Yorktown

■ Library director: Beverly Dudley

■ Children's librarian: Tammy Strickland

■ Choices this week: "True Friends" by Bill Wallace; "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein; "Love You Forever" by Robert Munsch

BOOKS TO BORROW

The following books are available to buy from your local bookstore.

ONCE UPON A COMPANY

■ written and illustrated in color by Wendy Anderson Halpern

■ Orchard Books, 1998, 32 pages

■ \$16.95 hardcover

■ Read aloud: age 6 and older

■ Read yourself: age 8 and older

This is the true story of how three kids began a small business that has grown over the years into an impressive and profitable enterprise. It began when Joel was 7 years old. With spare time on his hands, he asked his mother what he and his younger brother and sister could do. His mom recommended they make Christmas wreaths and sell them; it made sense. It was November; there were

pine trees everywhere, and the kids were certain their neighbors would buy the wreaths. They decided to start a company. Their grandfather suggested they start a college fund with the money they would make from their business venture. That's how they got their name: The College Fund Wreath Company. It's also where the kids got their start in the world of business.

Written in an entertaining style, readers learn how these kids started with a simple idea which has grown into a profitable business. From the initial stages of making and selling wreaths to expanding their business, these young entrepreneurs take readers through the many channels of change that have made their busi-

ness a success.

Written and illustrated in an engaging and entertaining style, budding entrepreneurs (and even those who haven't thought about starting their own business) will be intrigued by these dynamic kids and inspired by their success story.

MARY ON HORSEBACK

■ by Rosemary Wells, illustrated in black & white by Peter McCarty

■ Dial Books for Young Readers, 1998, 53 pages, \$16.99 hardcover

■ Read aloud: age 8/9 and older

■ Read yourself: age 9/10 and older

This is a true story of an extraordinary woman — Mary Breckin-



ridge. In three separate accounts, author Rosemary Wells shares a small slice of the work that this unsung heroine performed for the people of Kentucky during the early 1900's.

Trained as a nurse in World War I, Mary Breckinridge returned to her native Kentucky with an idea that stirred her into action. Mary knew that the people who lived in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky lived poorer lives than anywhere in America. They lived without running water, electricity, and often without enough to eat. Mary also knew that these people didn't have anyone to take care of their medical needs. She decided she would change that.

Riding on horseback into the mountains, Mary Breckinridge established her Frontier Nursing Service. Adding other nurses to her team, she and the other nurses rode sometimes for days into the mountains to treat people, deliver babies, give inoculations and save lives. Although Mary died in 1965, the Frontier Nursing Service continues today. Beautifully written, Rosemary Wells conveys the work of Mary Breckinridge through three separate stories of people whose entire existence was changed because of this incredible woman.



Rautzhan is a syndicated columnist who reviews books for children. She's also the mother of twin 12-year-old girls. She encourages your comments, questions and suggestions. Write to her at: RRT, Box 198-B, Simsbury, PAU 7801.

Work begins on \$5 million Tabb library

Race is on to raise money for amenities

By Greg A. Lohr
Daily Press

YORK

Jane Winner can't wait for York County's second public library to open in Tabb next summer.

As construction of the \$5 million library begins this month, Winner is thinking about the five-minute drive between her Kiln Creek home and the library site on Hampton Highway.

Five minutes.

As compared with 20 to 25 minutes of stop-and-go traffic up Route 17 to the county's existing library outside Yorktown.

"It is going to be too wonderful," says Winner, who, despite the traffic on Route 17, often visits the existing library with her son and daughter. "We'd like the library to be our second home. It is just the source of so many things."

Like those planning the Tabb library, Winner thinks libraries should be comfortable, "inviting places."

The question is, will the Tabb library be comfortable — or really, really comfortable?

That depends on whether the York County Library Foundation reaches its goal of raising \$150,000 by next summer. It also depends on how the foundation decides to spend the money.

Already in the library plans are a fireplace and several improvements on the existing library, including larger areas in which groups can meet and children can read. There will be seating for at least 150 people and room for 300 to gather for special events.

Other amenities are less certain.

Officials have talked of more than 130,000 books and audio tapes, comfortable furniture and good, durable carpet. Wired for a motorized video screen and a ceiling projector, the library will be "light years ahead in the technology areas," says John Hudgins, the county's chief of engineering and facility maintenance.

Library

Continued from B1

Even the idea of a Barnes and Noble-style coffee bar has been tossed around.

"There are lots of people who really get offended when we talk about coffee bars and fireplaces," says Marilyn Walter, foundation president. "They say, 'We'd rather have more books. We'd rather have comfortable furniture.' But for some people, those things are just really a goal."

"We want to make this a comfortable, friendly, very usable facility for families."

Still, make no mistake about it. The foundation's top priorities for the new library, she says, are books and furniture — not cappuccino and firewood.

The foundation has raised \$30,000. Walter anticipates it will need to spend between \$5,000 and

THIS PLAN IS FOR THE BOOKS

Construction begins this month on the York County Public Library in Tabb. Here's the plan:

■ **Size:** 32,000 square feet
■ **Book collection:** 130,000 volumes

■ **Seating capacity:** 150

■ **Parking spaces:** 195

■ **Extras:** Fireplace, large children's area

A breakdown of costs for the \$5 million library:

■ **\$1,100,000** — Land purchase,

utility work, environmental and other fees

■ **\$3,980,000** — Construction, which includes:

— **\$3,105,000** for the building.

— **\$500,000** for furnishings and shelving.

— **\$375,000** for computers, telephone lines and other wiring.

Source: John Hudgins, York County chief of engineering and facility maintenance

\$10,000 to furnish just one reading room.

Stocking the library with books and cassettes, she says, will cost around \$450,000, half of which the state will provide each year.

"A lot of what we may want to do are things we may not have done on the day the library opens," Walter says.

"We will add books as we go

along. We can add furniture as we go along."

Walter doesn't plan, however, to spend all of the foundation's money on the new library. Her goal is for the foundation to grow and support both county libraries.

Greg A. Lohr can be reached at 247-4736 or by e-mail at glohr@dailypress.com

Making library a reality took varied efforts

By Bob Moskowitz

Town Crier staff

With the Sept. 28 groundbreaking for the new York County Public Library in Tabb nearing, Director of Community Development Anne Smith felt the time was right to summarize "what's involved" in such an endeavor.

After all, she told the Board of Supervisors on Sept. 16, the new building will "serve as a gathering place to enhance the quality of life here for decades."

The building, for which work be-

gan in July, will include 31,870 square feet at a cost of \$5.1 million on 5.4 acres of a site whose total size is 11.8 acres.

The first county library was opened in 1968 and moved to Grafton in 1971 and to the current building on Route 17 in 1974. After briefly tracing the county's library history and the steps taken in preparing for the newest one, Smith emphasized the project's completion will be the result of contributions from numerous organizations and individuals.

She pinpointed makeup of the

Construction Management team this way: General Services, Finance Manager, Purchasing Agency, Building Official, Fire Marshall, Development Chief, Utilities Chief, Storm Water Engineer, York County Attorney, Librarian, a citizens' committee, and those involved in automation and technology.

Also very much involved in the opening of the facility will be extensive planning to handle what amounts to library space that will triple the current capacity. The staff

Please see **LIBRARY**, Page 10

Library

Continued from Page 1

also must contend with the mountain of details involved with moving.

The design phase, she said, began in March 1997, when the Design Team included the county staff and the Library Board of Trustees. On the latter body are Chairman Jan

Farley, Sheila Noll (Chairman of the Board of Supervisors), Beth Meisner, Bill Nachman and Lynn Jenkins.

Also playing an integral role in easing the financial load on the county were efforts by the Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library.



YORK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Sheila S. Noll, Chairman
James W. Funk, Vice Chairman
Albert R. Meadows
Jere M. Mills
Walter C. Zarembo

YORK COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

Janice L. Farley, Chairman
Lynn S. Jenkins
Elizabeth G. Meisner
William M. Nachman
Sheila S. Noll



York County Public Library
Tabb

Groundbreaking Ceremony

September 28, 1998



York County Public Library
Tabb

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

GREETINGS AND
INTRODUCTIONS

Daniel M. Stuck
County Administrator

REMARKS

Janice L. Farley, Chairman
Library Board

REMARKS

Sheila S. Noll, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

GROUNDBREAKING

REFRESHMENTS

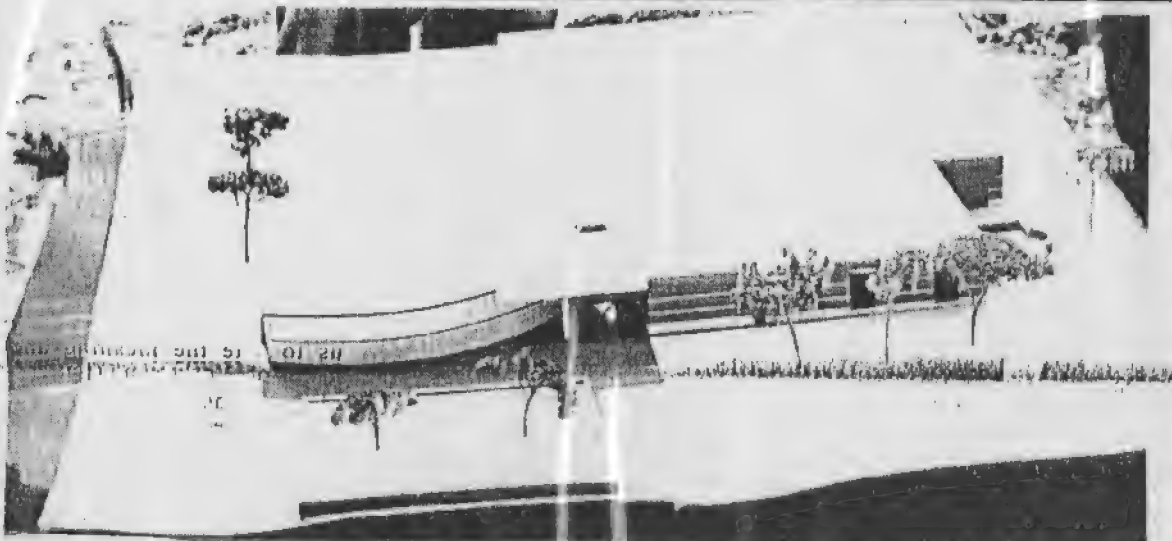
YORK TOWN CRIER
9/30 - 10/6, 1998



Library is under way

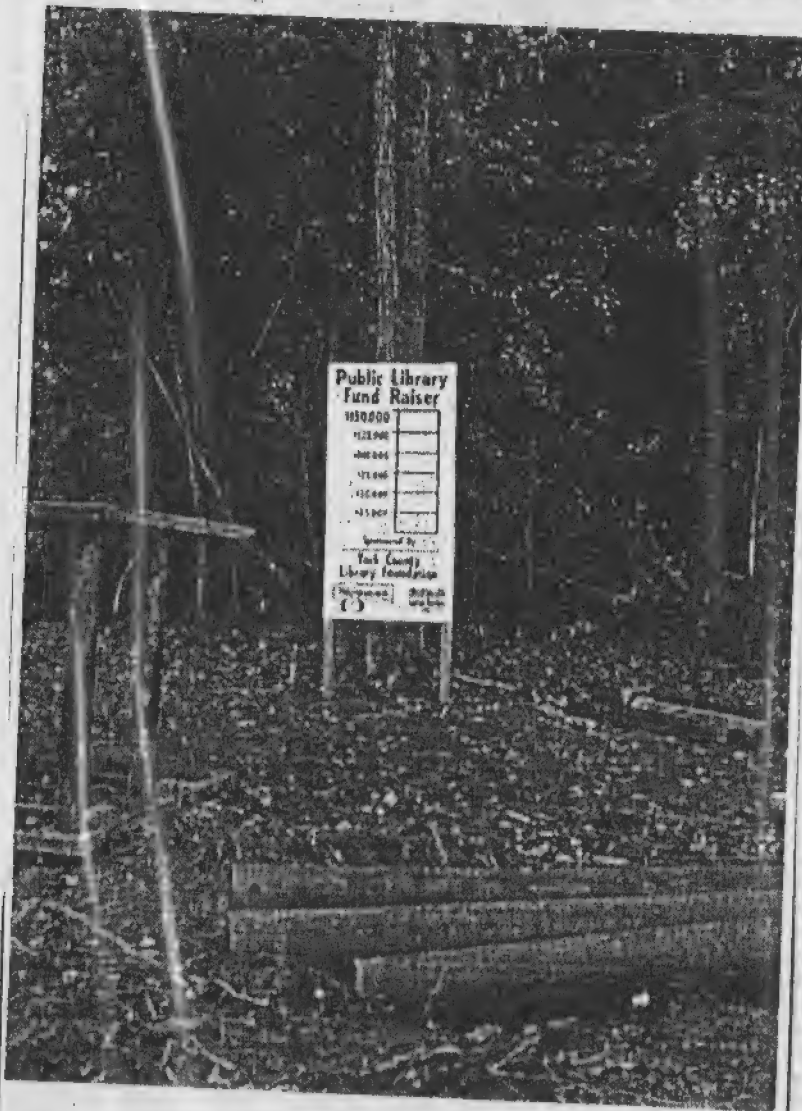
Formal ground breaking ceremonies were held Monday afternoon for the new York County Library in Tabb. A host of dignitaries gathered for the ceremonial shoveling. At top, Library Board of Trustee Chairman Jan Farley, left, and vice chairman, Shella Noll, do the honors. At right, Farley and Noll address the audience. Below, the architect's model of the new facility was on display.

Photos courtesy of York County



YORK TOWN CRIER
November 11-17, 1998

Images



This sign will keep county residents informed on how well the fundraising effort for the new Tabb Library is going. This picture was taken by York Town Crier staff photographer Lois Chesley. Pictures of local faces and places are welcome for publication in this space. Send them to P. O. Box 978, Yorktown 23692.

November 4 - November 10, 1998

Read-a-thon offered at York Library

The York County Public Library will celebrate National Children's Book Week, Nov. 16 to 22, with a children's "Books Go Everywhere" Read-a-thon. To participate, children read at least 10 pages a day during the week and record this number on a Reading Record and daily bookmarks.

They can also show their reading progress on a bulletin board by filling out buttons for each day that they have read 10 pages or more. Children with completed Reading Records will win toys from the prize box, McDonald's ice cream coupons or paperback books.

Children can pick up their Reading Record, bookmarks, and Read-a-thon rules from Monday, Nov. 9, through Wednesday, Nov. 18. Completed Reading Records can be turned in to Kristen Kirwan at the Children's Desk Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and be redeemed for prizes from Monday, Nov. 23 through Monday, Nov. 30.

Completed Reading Records must have a parent's signature to be redeemed for a prize. All children who complete their Reading Record will receive a Certificate of Participation.

For more information and complete rules, call Kirwan at 890-3377.

Book sale slated

A book sale is slated for this weekend at the York County Public Library. The sale opens on Friday, Nov. 13, from 3 to 8 p.m. for members of the Friends of the Library, the sponsoring organization. Memberships will be available at the door.

On Saturday, Nov. 14, the sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday, Nov. 15, from 1 to 5 p.m. The public is invited to shop this used book sale, where most books are in excellent condition.

The Friends organization raises funds, enabling them to assist the library with special events such as the children's summer reading program and the purchase of needed equipment.

October 21 - 27, 1998

York County Library celebrates Halloween

The York County Public Library will be offering some Halloween Treats for visitors, beginning today. Each time a patron in grades K through 12 checks out a book between 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 21, and 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 29, that person can guess the number of treats in a "Goody Jar."

Another option is to enter a drawing to win a Halloween prize. Anyone from age 2 is eligible, with one entry per child per day allowed.

Winners will be announced on Friday, Oct. 30, at 4 p.m.

For more information and contest rules, see Kristen Kirwan at the children's desk at the library, or call her at 890-3377.

November 11-17, 1998

Herbal Christmas workshop planned

A workshop for last minute gifts that can be made in 30 minutes for \$5 or less will be offered at the York County Library Meeting Room on Monday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. Heidi Hartwiger will preside over the event, entitled "Make It Yourself: Herbal Christmas."

Participants should bring a fat candle (any size other than a taper) to the workshop. To register, call 890-3377 or do so in person at the front desk.



York Town Crier photo by Lola Chesley

Memorial donation

The Yorktown Women's Club recently donated two books to the York County Public Library in memory of Mary Mathews. Part of the National Federation of Women's Club's Library 2000 project, the books were specifically selected with 'Miss Mary' in mind: one featured the Greek Islands and the other was a book of Greek recipes. From left, Joann Van Riper, Ann Sundry, and Sue Pichelli of the club present the books to the library's Ethel Peterson, also a club member.

Library hosts 'Bedtime Storytime'

A Bedtime Storytime will be held at the York County Public Library on Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. The half-hour story time is open to all children 3, 4 and 5 years old.

Children are invited to wear their pajamas. Milk and cookies will be served.

The Newport News Reading Council is sponsoring this event. For information, call 898-3849.





Lee Stephens of Tabb, left, assists Kitty Ensley

Native blood donor achieves pinnacle

By Carol Scott
Special to the Crier

Imagine having to ride a rowboat across the Poquoson River to attend school. Or driving down two-lane roads to venture anywhere else besides the agricultural county you called home.

Catherine "Kitty" Ensley, living in Yorktown since her birth in 1919, can even remember when the local Red Cross chapter had to use a cell in the county jail as its office.

The surroundings might have changed for this remarkable woman, but her dedication to the York County and the City of Poquoson communities, and its residents, has not wavered a bit over the years.

What else, but a strong sense of loyalty, together with a kind and generous spirit, would keep Ensley giving blood, eventually reaching the 11-gallon mark recently. Or volunteering for the March of Dimes for more than 35 years, where in 1948, a year after she accepted the chairmanship of the York County organization, an ironic twist of fate found herself being diagnosed with having polio.

What else but her love of York County would have her working as a docent for the Watermen's Museum two afternoons a month for the last 12 years? Or volunteer-

ing at the York County Library, or serving as the volunteer recruiter for the blood services program at the York-Poquoson Chapter of the American Red Cross for the past 15 years?

Ensley, an avid reader and mother of three boys, grandmother of four, and great-grandmother of five, lives on a street in Yorktown that was named after her.

Even with all her community involvement over the years, she found time to attend college in Virginia, teach school for several years in Poquoson, and work for the York County Health Department and the York County Extension Service before retiring at age 64.

Today, at 79, Ensley is an inspiration to the volunteers and staff at the York-Poquoson Chapter of the American Red Cross.

She began with the organization as a First Aid Instructor in 1942, then served as the secretary of the Board from 1948 to 1952. Soon she focused her efforts on the blood program, working on the bloodmobile from 1965 until 1975, when she began serving as the nurse recruiter until 1983.

Ensley has been the volunteer recruiter since 1983.

YORK TOWN CRIER
January 13 - 19, 1999

Library Story Hour registration begins

Registration for the Winter/Spring Story Hour at the York County Public Library will be from Tuesday, Jan. 16, through Friday, Jan. 29. Interested persons may register in person at the library or by calling Kristen Kirwan at 890-3377 Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Story Hour sessions will be as follows:

- Tuesday and Wednesday, from 10 to 10:30 a.m. for ages 2 1/2 to 3 1/2.

- Tuesday from 1 to 2 p.m. and Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. for ages 3 1/2 to kindergarten.

- Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m. for home-schooled children ages 5 to 8.

The Story Hour program will include book sharing, storytelling, singing, fingerplays, and crafts. There is no charge for the program.

Children must be registered, and enrollment is limited. An adult must accompany the child to Story Hour. For more information, call Kirwan at 890-3377.

Work progressing on Tabb Library

By Bob Moskowitz

Town Crier staff

Despite a rash of inclement weather, work on the new Tabb library is stacking up properly.

And, says, John Hudgins, Manager of York County's Engineering and Facility Maintenance Division, the moving-in process should begin as scheduled by Aug. 9.

The \$3 million facility on Hampton Highway already has received building pad and footing, while the steel girders are nearly completed as is the curbing. Hudgins says also completed are all the storm sewer piping and the underground geothermal field for HVAC.

He says Oyster Point Construction "has taken advantage of the good weather, when there is some, and works weekends. It is doing a better-than average job of keeping on schedule."

The "most significant factor" concerning the weather, says Hudgins, "is that the ground on the site dries very slowly."

It also helps the project that time windows allowing for inclement weather were considered in the contract.

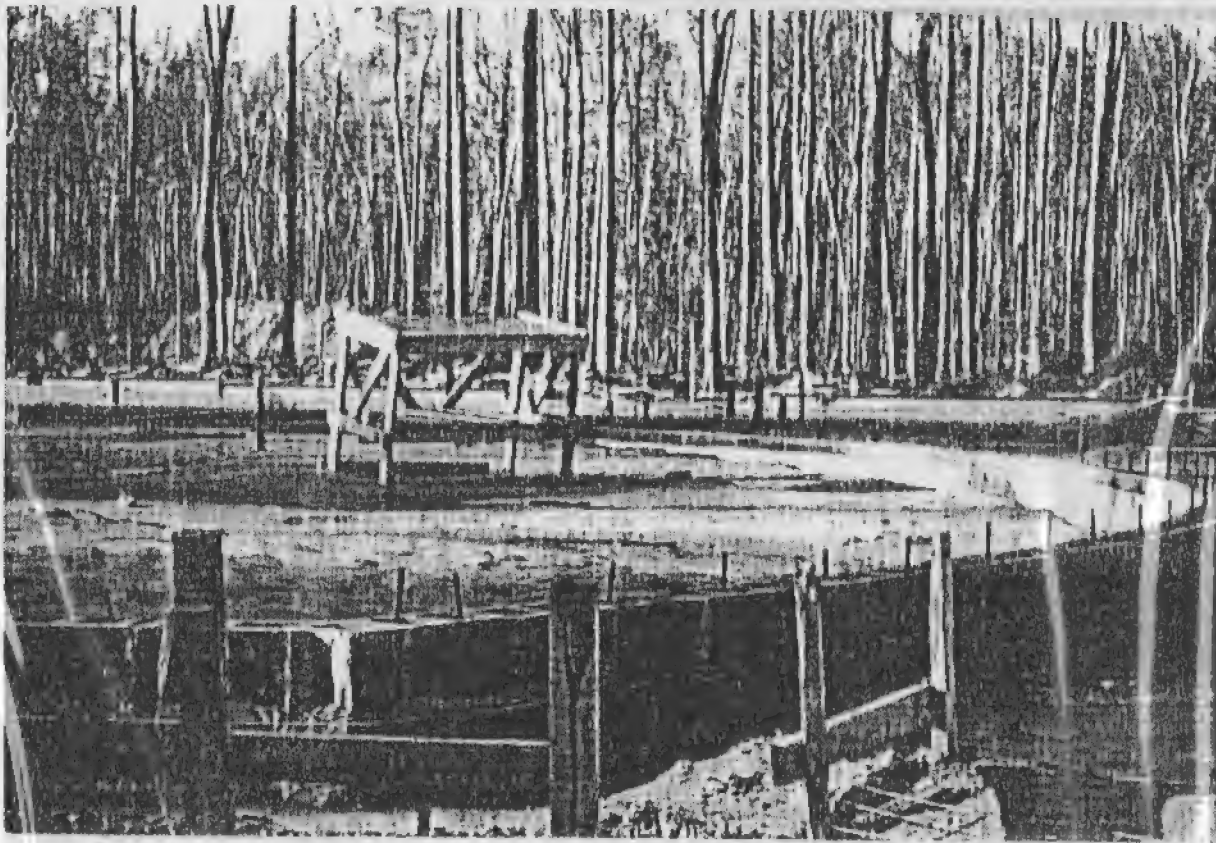
It all adds up to the conclusion that "we've had no surprises. We're through with the sub-base stabilizing, which is where most surprises come from and we've had very few," says Hudgins.

Tongue in check, he says "It's kind of boring." Then he quickly makes sure the listener understands, "I'm not bored, but as for the progress of the work, there just is no sense of excitement."

"For me that's great, because I wants it all to go right."



Bad weather didn't delay the work, which is currently on schedule.



Foundations are laid at the new site.

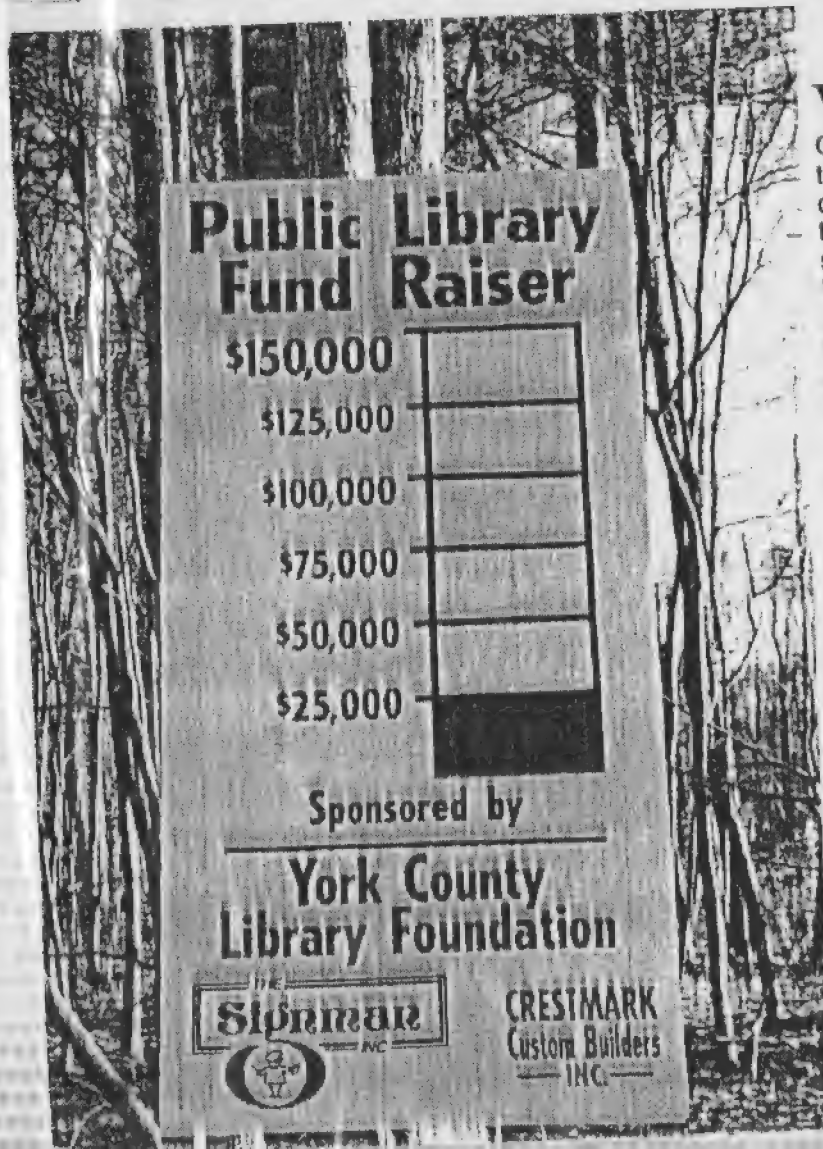
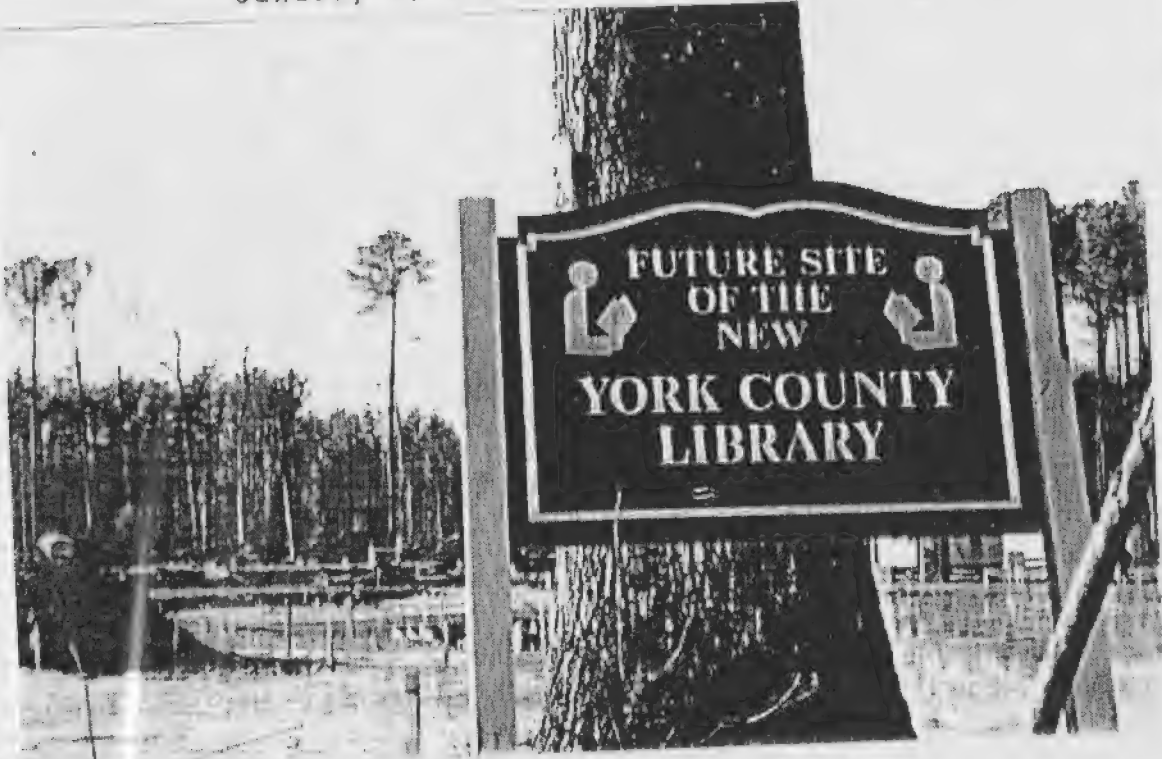
York Town Crier photos by Jessica Hoffman



York Town Crier photo by Jessica Hoffman

Tabb Library

Construction continues on the new structure. See page 10.



Visible progress

Ground has been broken, the footprint is in place, and construction has begun at the new Tabb Library. The sign, above, is visible from Route 134 and serves as a reminder as to the nature of the activity. At left, a chart shows that \$25,000 has been raised and that public interest for the new facility is strong.

York Town Crier photos by Jessica Hoffman

March 10 - 16, 1999

Stuck's budget not ho-hum to library — you can book it

By Bob Moskowitz

Town Crier staff

Danny Stuck says his proposed budget "is not that exciting."

Superintendent of Schools Steve Staples says from his system's perspective "there were no surprises."

Beverly Dudley disagrees.

The York County Librarian says happily that the situation concerning allotment of funds for books for the new library under construction in Tabb "is 1,000 percent better than it was a year ago."

She feels "I'm getting good support from the county," which has already started searching for a vendor. That, she says, will allow her to purchase around 25,000 new books at about \$20 each, she says.

Please see BUDGET, Page 12

Budget

Continued from Page 1

So, considering all three attitudes, it shouldn't be unexpected when York County Administrator Stuck says that he anticipates a small turnout for next Tuesday's Public Hearing at the York High School Auditorium.

The 7 p.m. affair, that technically is a meeting of the Board of Supervisors, usually attracts a goodly number of mostly upset citizens.

Based on the comparative lack of ruffled feathers at the Supervisors' recent regular meetings and an unusually low number of pre-meeting phone calls to Board members, Stuck appears to be on the mark.

It also backs Stuck's assertion that the county is in "excellent financial condition."

His budget, or more properly the General Fund, is \$69 million, which is an increase of 4.6 percent over a year ago. The school system will receive \$25.2 million, an increase of 5 percent, a somewhat smaller increase than it has enjoyed for the last few years.

Staples and Stuck had been in contact often for about six weeks prior to the March 10 announcement. Staples pointed out

that both the schools and county government are aware that "localities definitely are carrying more of a burden, especially in view of all the publicity of the rosy economic forecast and state surplus."

Of course, there is no guarantee the Board will approve all, or even much, of the document. Based in part on what happens at the March 17 York High School session and on what action, if any, the Supervisors opt to take, anything can happen.

One of the major issues Stuck cleared up in the proposal concerned the allegation of \$720,000 toward running what will be two county libraries. Stuck says she total funding "is about what the library board asked for." Book-wise, he said it amounts to about two volumes per person.

About \$230,000 is allocated to new books and \$140,000 for maintenance of the existing library. However, Stuck adds that the "book" part includes a number of other items, such as tapes and periodicals.

Dudley explains that overall, the library will pick up funding from such things as any excess in con-

struction monies. "Up to now, I thought we'd only have about \$160,000. Now the number is nearer \$500,000."

Stuck also said that any contributions from the Library Foundation will be "a bonus."

Stuck's address to the Supervisors on his budget included such notations as:

- This is the fifth year in a row that there has been no tax increase

- During the three-year reign of this Board, cost per pupil in the county has increased by 31 percent, something that "would have been worse" had not the federal and state governments increased contributions for this coming year to halt a trend of declining support

- As he did a year ago, Stuck warned that possibilities exist for a tax increase next year

- He again reminded listeners that York is one of the very few counties without a utility tax

- Stuck thinks "we're finished" with a special decade of growth and construction spending. "Indications are we're over the hump and now perhaps we [staff and Board] will be able to talk about" such things as improved recreation facilities, transportation and education programs.

March 31 - April 6, 1999

Board boosting library's stock

By Bob Moskowitz

Town Crier staff

When the Tabb Library opens in early fall, the 55,000 or so volumes on its shelves will include about 14,000 fiction and non-fiction books in effect given the OK by the York County Board of Supervisors March 17.

That was when the Board approved a library request for a total of \$700,000 that included \$150,000 first approved at a March 10 work session.

This will allow the new structure to house a variety of books from several sources.

The \$700,000 will basically be spread in seven different ways.

- The major portion -- \$280,000 --

goes for those 14,000 books at an average cost of \$20 each

- Some 2,000 reference volumes will cost \$65 each, totaling \$130,000

- 6,000 children's books at \$20 each will cost \$120,000

- 1,500 books on tape at \$50 each total \$75,000

- 2,000 videos at \$15 each cost \$30,000

- Various periodicals will run \$20,000

- \$45,000 is budgeted for electronic databases.

All this, County Administrator Danny Stuck told the Board of Supervisors, "will meet the mini-

Please see **BOOKS**, Page 2

Books

Continued from Page 1

mal state standard of two books per capita."

Actually, the county lists the \$150,000 among estimated funds available for purchasing collections. It is added to the \$225,000 listed in the current year operating budget. Add \$250,000 for the proposed FY2000 Budget and \$75,000 for savings in construction and the total equals \$700,000.

Not included in any of these figures are donations to the Library

Foundation, which so far is at \$36,000. That sum, says Librarian Beverly Dudley, will be used "for extras at both libraries."

Stuck told the Board that the current balance in the Contingency Reserve is \$233,757, which will allow the \$150,000 to come from that category.

The balance, said Stuck, also will cover the recovery portion of the ice storm of Dec. 24 which will not be reimbursed by the state.

Engraved library bricks available

Local residents are reminded to order an engraved York County Library brick to honor or memorialize friends or family members by Monday, April 19, at 5 p.m. The bricks can be placed at either the new Tabb Library or at the current York County Library.

The York County Library Foundation is offering these bricks, for a tax-deductible donation of \$100 each, as a fundraising project to purchase books and other materials for the libraries. The engravings on the bricks can be up to three lines, with 20 spaces on each line.

Order forms are available at the York County Library, 8500 George Washington Memorial Highway, or by calling 890-3377.

Spring Book sale set for County Library

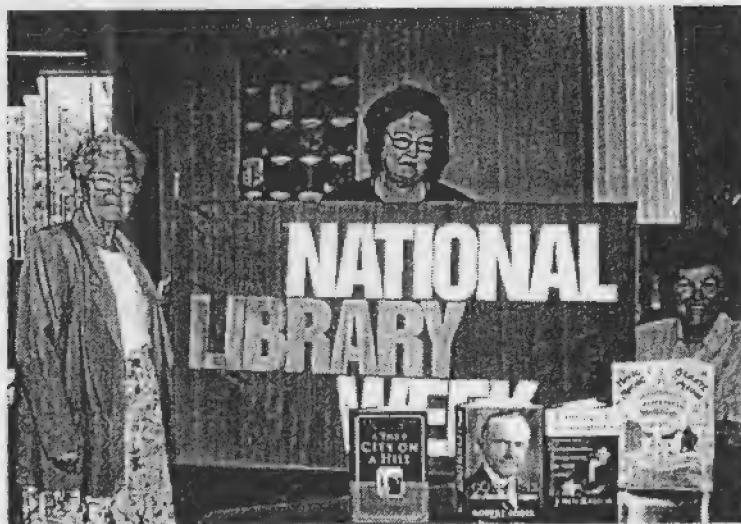
The Friends of the York County Library will hold their Spring Book Sale from Friday, April 16, through Sunday, April 18, according to the following schedule.

- Friday: 3 to 8 p.m. -- Friends only sale. New members are welcome to come and join the Friends

- Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- open to the public sale

- Sunday: 1 to 5 p.m. -- open to the public sale. Half-price sale will be conducted from 4 to 5 p.m.

For more information, call the York County Public Library at 890-3377.



York Town Crier photo by Jessica Hoffman

Books donated

Mary Clark, left, President of the York Republican Women's Club, along with Sheila Noll, right, the Mamie Eisenhower Library Project Chairman, present four books to the York County Public Library. The occasion was in honor of National Library Week, currently being observed. Beverly Dudley, Library Director, accepts the books on behalf of the library. In addition, special activities have been planned for each day throughout the week, to include a genealogy workshop, Wappadoodle Puppets presentations and internet classes for beginners. Check the library, or call 890-3377 for more information.

DAILY PRESS

April 15, 1999

York library selling bricks to raise cash

YORK

The York County Library Foundation is selling engraved bricks until 5 p.m. Monday.

A brick is available for a \$100 tax-deductible donation.

The money will help buy books and other materials for the existing library and for the library being built in Tabb.

Bricks may be placed at either library.

To pick up an order form, go to the library at 8500 George Washington Memorial Highway or call 890-3377.

May 5-11, 1999



Kit Taylor, left, and Joanne Van Riper, co-chair of Libraries 2000, collect donated books

Yorktown Woman's Club supports Libraries 2000

In April 1997, President Clinton, along with former presidents Bush, Reagan, Carter and Ford, convened a Presidents Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia and issued an historic call to commitment and action on the part of citizens and organizations to "turn the tide for America's youth by the turn of the century."

The Yorktown Woman's Club, which is a member of The General Federation of Women's Clubs, has made the following commitment in support of the Summit. It is based on GFWC's history of support for public libraries and literacy, and realizing that the ability to read and having access to reading materials is key to success in life.

The GFWC's goal is to contribute at least \$12.5 million worth of reading material to public libraries and schools by the year 2000. To help meet this goal, the Yorktown Woman's Club has donated books to local schools, bought children's books



Sue Picnelli, education chairman, left, presents a book to Ethel Peterson, Libraries 2000 co-chair

for the public library and donated money to buy a commemorative brick for the new Tabb Library.

Several books have also been donated to the library in honor of

guest speakers and in memory of deceased members. As of March, the Yorktown Woman's Club has donated 195 books valued at \$1,800.

UPDATE

Follow-up on local news

York's new library will open on time, lacking extras

By Greg A. Lohr
Daily Press

YORK

York County's new library in Tabb should be completed on time, but it may not open with every extra in place.

On Sept. 20, the Daily Press reported that construction was starting on the \$5 million library on Hampton Highway. The county Library Foundation wanted to raise \$150,000 for books and amenities by this summer.

The building is going up as planned, but donations are coming in more slowly than expected.

Brick exterior walls have been put up. The curbing is almost finished. The roof is 80 percent complete, and workers are now placing simulated limestone on the curved, decorative wall at the front of the library, says John Hudgins, the county's chief of engineering and facility maintenance.

"The library is going great," Hudgins says. "It is strongly and firm-

Please see Update/B2

Update

Continued from B1

ly on schedule for completion August 9. I wish all my jobs were going this smooth."

County residents won't be able to browse the library's collection until early October. Even once the building is finished in August, Hudgins says, furniture and shelving must be moved in, and staff members must go through training and orientation.

Foundation officials are excited that construction is on schedule. But they wish they had more than \$40,000 raised so far, says foundation Secretary Karen Marchlewski. They are "disappointed," she says, that they have not reached their \$150,000 goal.

Janice Farley, who chairs the York library system's Board of Trustees, says more than 200 people have bought engraved books through the foundation's Books for Bricks program. Bricks are going for \$100 each, Farley says, and the price will increase to \$120 in June.

"It's not just for books; it's for other materials as well," she says. "That part of the campaign has been very, very successful."

Farley says she isn't sure, however, why no large donations have come in. She recognizes the county's private sector consists mainly of small businesses rather than large corporations.

"They support the schools," she says. "I can't ask them to give more fiscally if they can't. I'd like to, though, because a library's a community thing."

Perhaps these businesses aren't aware the foundation is raising money, Farley says. Or perhaps business leaders will be more inclined to give once they've visited the library.

Either way, Farley and other foundation members say that — barring any construction delays — the library will open on time.

"The basics will be there," says Marchlewski, the group's secretary. "The Board of Supervisors gave us money to build the library and for furniture. We are just trying to go beyond the basics to provide more resources the public can benefit from."

Foundation officials would like

UPDATE

Follow-up on local news



Copyright Dennis Kozlowski

Work begins on \$5 million Tabb library

Sept. 20, 1998.

Construction begins on York County's second public library.

the library to offer lots of reference materials and an extensive children's section, Marchlewski says.

Also planned are a fireplace, larger meeting areas and a room equipped with a motorized video screen and a ceiling projector.

The idea of a Barnes and Noble-style coffee bar has been discussed. But that's not a top priority, Marchlewski says.

"I think if somebody wants it and says, 'I'll donate the money because I want a coffee bar,' then we will have that," she says.

YORK TOWN CRIER
May 26 - June 1, 1999

Volunteers sought for County Library

Summer is almost here, and with it comes an increased need for volunteers at the York County Public Library. Applications for summer volunteers are now available at the library for anyone 13 years or older.

After a review of the applications and an interview, volunteers will be placed in suitable positions. Some of the possible jobs include planning for summer programs, shelving materials, designing and posting bulletin boards, copying, typing, making signs and posters, and helping with children's programs.

Positions are limited. There is a minimum commitment of two hours per week. The application deadline for summer volunteer positions is Friday, June 4. Interviews will be conducted the week of June 7.

For more information, call the library at 890-3377.

YORK TOWN CRIER

June 2-8, 1999

Summer reading program offered

"Read Around the World -- Book a Trip" is the theme for the 1999 summer reading program at the York County Public Library. The program will begin on Monday, June 21, and end on Friday, Aug. 6.

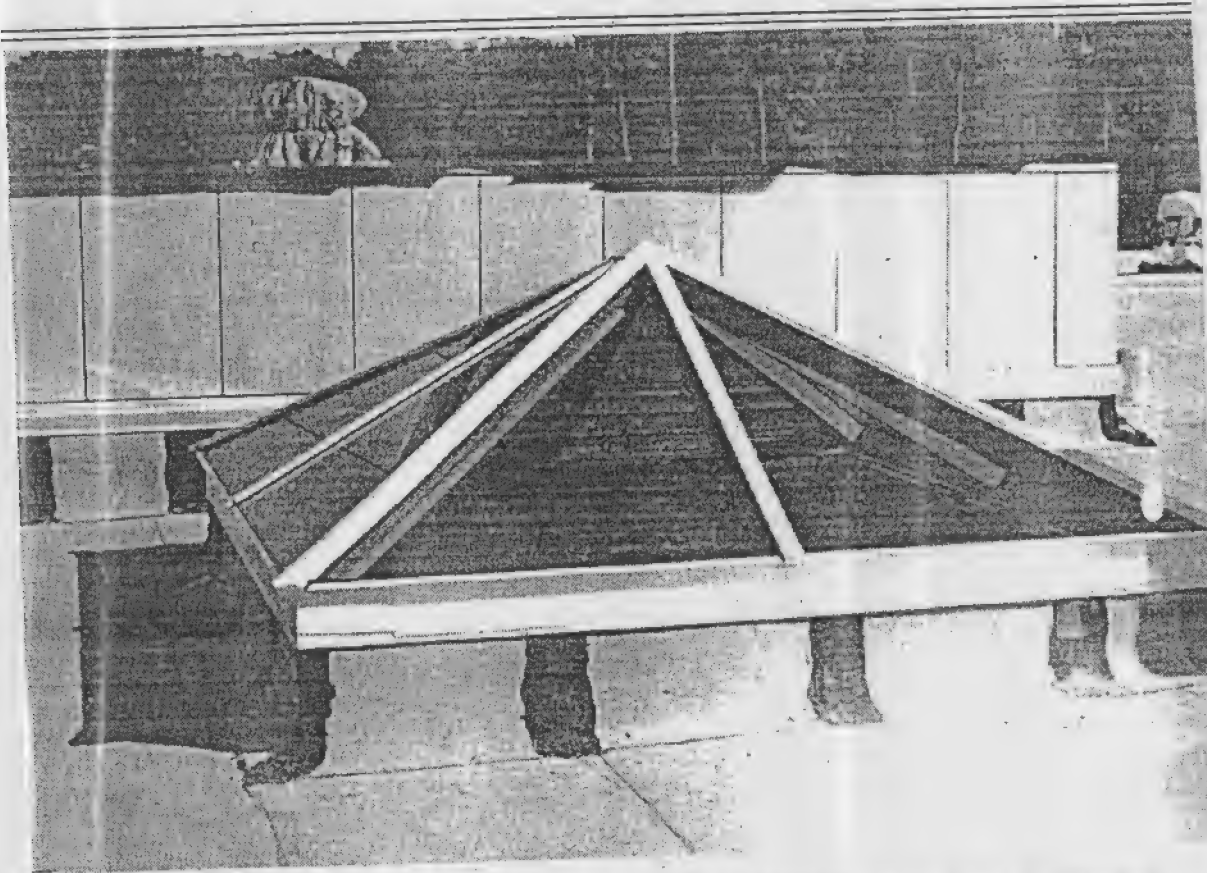
Registration will be held from Wednesday, June 2, to Friday, June 18. The program is for children 2 1/2 to 12 years.

The program will include story hours, special performances, weekly prizes, Friendship Boxes and more. For more information, call Kristen Kirwan, Children's Coordinator, at 890-3377.

YORK TOWN CRIER

June 9-15, 1999

Images



The skylight at the York County Public Library in Tabb can be seen as construction continues on the new facility. The picture was taken by York Town Crier staff photographer Beth Meisner. Pictures of local faces and places are welcomed for publication in this space. Send them to P.O. Box 978, Yorktown 23692.

June 30 - July 6, 1999

Library to close for extended time

The York County Public Library will be closed on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 9, 10, and 11. Limited library services will be available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 6, 7 and 8.

The purpose of the closure is for the installation of a new automation system. The library plans to re-open on Monday, July 12, but residents are advised to call the library at 890-3377 to confirm operating hours.

YORK TOWN CRIER

July 7 - 13, 1999

Images



Mosquito Control Awareness Week was observed throughout the county recently. This display was set up at the York County Public Library to alert residents to the annual event. The picture was taken by York Town Crier staff photographer Lois Chesley. Pictures of local faces and places are welcomed for publication in this space. Send them to P.O. Box 978, Yorktown 23692.

York library hi-tech at last

By Bob Moskowitz
Town Crier staff

In the quiet corners of the York County Library, modernization has taken over.

Under the guidance of Network Manager Dave Cannon, the county "essentially replaced" what was a 9-year-old computer system with a modern one. It is poised and capable of hooking up swiftly and comfortably with the under-construction new library in Tabb.

"We were way behind," says Library Director Beverly Dudley. "Our server was inadequate to upgrade. We just weren't keeping up, because we knew this change was coming. Now we're up-to-date."

A major reason is the expertise of Cannon, who, in his four years with the county, has been able to oversee initiation of a county internet system that will reach completion with the opening of the new library in the early fall. "It will be one large homogeneous system," he says.

So far, the cost is only \$85,000. The sum comes out of the \$350,000 set aside for library technology and the amount will increase some with installation of the system in Tabb.

The system in the current library has been installed over the past 10 days in order make Tabb occupation easier. If nothing else, it will allow employees to focus on doing the library business and not having to stop and learn a new computer system.

"The whole message is," says Cannon, "that we've put in a new user-friendly system that customers can access at home and we hope the public can enjoy the improved accessibility."

Until this week, the library used a system called Unix. The new one is Microsoft NT Server.

In preparing for the future, the new library will have 30 PCs which can interface with the library

Please see HI-TECH, Page 12

Hi-Tech

Continued from Page 1

system on the internet. More important, "we'll have enough infrastructure for 80 to 85 PCs. We have no idea where this [world of computers] is taking us, so we've prepared for a good deal."

The new system, he says, "has been purchased and sized to accommodate the next generation of library software, which we expect to implement in two to three years.

Being "user-friendly" means having 17-inch screens that are easy to read and a system which will not prove to be overwhelming to seniors.

As for children, Cannon figures "the 10-year-olds will do better than we do. If anything, the system is more child-friendly than adult-friendly. If you can read, you can use it." However, the library hasn't dismantled all the old terminals, the ones with no mouse. "We're waiting until everyone appears used to the new system," he says.

Actually, the system won't

make the internet for another 30 days. By then, "we anticipate that, not only will there be a search catalog, but readers can place on hold a book from home," says Cannon.

Helping no end in facilitating the complicated technology have been a new county employee, Kevin Walker, and library volunteer Sterry Weaver. "They did all the PCs and helped me with the servers. They installed the infrastructure and did the network wiring, hubs and things like that," says Cannon. He handled most of the server work.

The overall job, he says, has some major differences compared to his previous challenges.

"The library," he explains, "is where the county has an opportunity to give a good return on its tax dollars. It was important to me that we do a thorough job."

What made it different is that Cannon emphatically wanted to escape any opening-day glitches. The result required extra hours of

work. If it weren't something so accessible to the public, "then we might be able to let small problems ride for a short time." That shouldn't happen with this effort.

Also, Cannon says "this was a little more complex than the average project."

There still remains some work. This past Monday, he said "we still have to put in T-1 phone lines between the old and new library and with the county. That includes installing the network routes. We don't contract that work out any more."

Cannon figures he encountered only one major unexpected problem. "That was overcoming the differences between how things were done in the old system versus the new one." In that vein, he lauds Ameritech Library Servers for "being very helpful" over the phone.

Everything used was installed locally "to save money with which the library can buy more books."

Bridging the adult gap

Library volunteers practice job skills while helping kids

By Jessica Daggett
Daily Press Correspondent

YORK

Nicole Ethier and Caitlin McLean have had their fill of "Green Eggs and Ham" for the time being.

Motioning toward the rear of the children's section of the York County Public Library, McLean said, "The computers in the back play the same music and stories over and over again."

Ethier nods in agreement. "'Green Eggs and Ham' is the worst because it rhymes."

The girls share a sympathetic look with one another and roll their eyes.

Amidst the hushed and serious atmosphere of the library, Ethier, 15, and McLean, 14, have discovered a different book-borrowing universe volunteering in the children's area. It's a world inhabited by talkative and energetic kids, funky looking animals and many other "fun things," according to McLean.

"One little girl wanted me to look at book after book with her," said McLean. "She was a constant chatterbox. I just said, 'I have to work, you know,' but she kept on talking."

This easy rapport with visitors of all ages is one of the benefits of having such youthful volunteers, said Head of Children's Services Karen Kurzeja, especially since the start of this year's summer reading program, called "Book a Trip — Read Around the World."

"They bridge a gap between the kids

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

NAME: Nicole Ethier
AGE: 15
HOME: York County
YEARS AS YORK COUNTY LIBRARY VOLUNTEER: Three
FAVORITE BOOK AS A CHILD:
"Black and White" by David Macauley

NAME: Caitlin McLean
AGE: 14
HOME: York County
YEARS AS YORK COUNTY LIBRARY VOLUNTEER: Two
FAVORITE BOOK AS A CHILD:
"Home for a Bunny" by Margaret Weiss Brown

and adults," said Kurzeja. "They're on the road to adulthood, but they're not so many years from adulthood that they've lost their natural enthusiasm. The kids recognize that in them."

For instance, McLean, a chatty girl with a head crammed full of ideas and stories, excitedly recalls the two autographed mailings she received from popular children's author Jon Scieszka after writing to him. Her father had recently bought her Scieszka's "Math Curse" to offer her a humorous outlook on her difficulty with mathematics.

"I asked him if I could write 'Science Curse,' because I'm not good at that either," McLean said of her correspondence with Scieszka. "He said it would be all right."

Still, McLean, who is preparing to start ninth grade at Grafton High School this fall, is ready to assume more grown-up concerns.

"My mind functions on one thing: guys," she said dramatically. Ethier, the more studious of the two, sums up the in-between nature of their ages more directly. "I like to be a kid some time and other times I want to be mature as possible."

Volunteering in the children's section of a library offers the girls a mixture of both.

Ethier and McLean have plenty of

opportunities to enjoy responsibility and practice on-the-job adult skills. Much of their time at the library is spent shelving and re-organizing books and taking phone calls and assisting patrons from behind the children's area's desk.

"We really couldn't have our summer reading program without our volunteers," said Kurzeja. "And Nicole and Caitlin have really nice manners. I know I can trust them with patrons."

Volunteering among the younger set can be plenty of fun and games, too. Both girls often help make the crafts used in the weekly reading programs. It's a duty Ethier and McLean site as one of their favorites.

One project allowed the girls to paste animal body parts together in any way imaginable.

"That was fun," said McLean. "The animals looked really crazy. I made one with bunny ears and an elephant nose."

"They're cheerful about cutting out 900 animal arms," quipped Kurzeja, adding, "We've made Egyptian necklaces out of Chinet paper plates. That was a trip. The girls put them on and modeled them, dancing around like Egyptians. They're very creative."

Ethier and McLean's creativity extends beyond their volunteer works.

Thanks to healthy diets of mystery

(McLean) and fantasy books (both), Ethier and McLean are avid writers.

"I write short stories, but I never finish them. I have too many ideas," said Caitlin, who prefers to write teen-type romance dramas.

"Me, too," chimed in Ethier, a fantasy scribe. "I've started writing a lot of books, but I get bored and move on to something else."

Ethier has considered making a career out of writing, but was discouraged by the fact that writers "don't make a lot of money." Instead, she's hoping to work in the field of environment conservation, inspired by the sadness she felt when land behind her house was bought up and cleared out.

As for McLean, she thinks she'd like to be a party planner because, "I've got big ideas for parties."

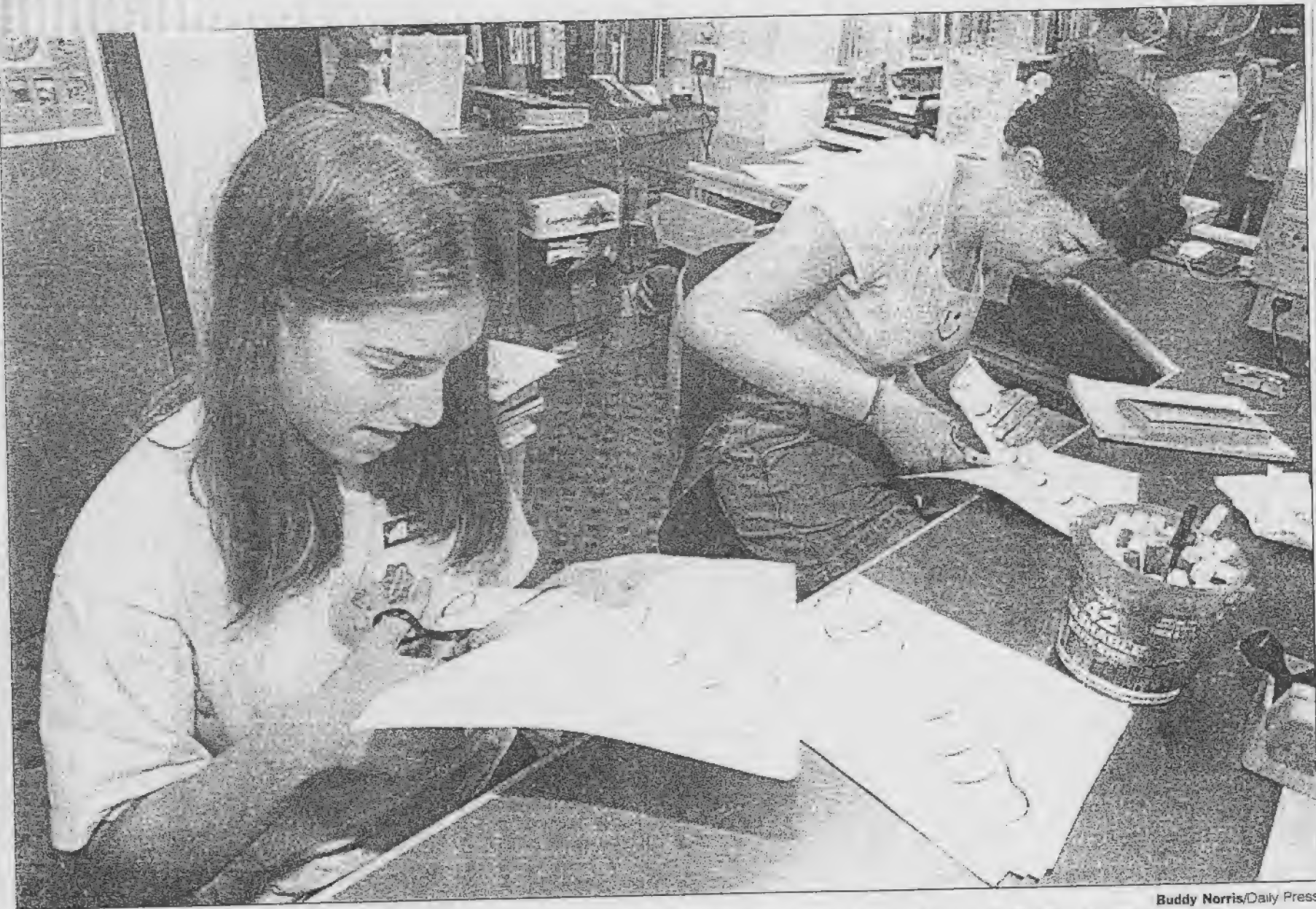
Right now, the girls are pretty busy with their added volunteer responsibilities: preparing to play various witches and a fairy godmother in the reading program's production of Scieszka's fractured fairy tale, "The Frog Prince Continued."

And with the school year approaching, the grim task of plowing through summer reading lists occupies a good deal of their time. Ethier is tackling Henry David Thoreau's "Walden," with less than favorable results. "A whole chapter about bubbles," she exclaimed in frustration.

At least while volunteering, they can forget all those adult responsibilities occasionally.

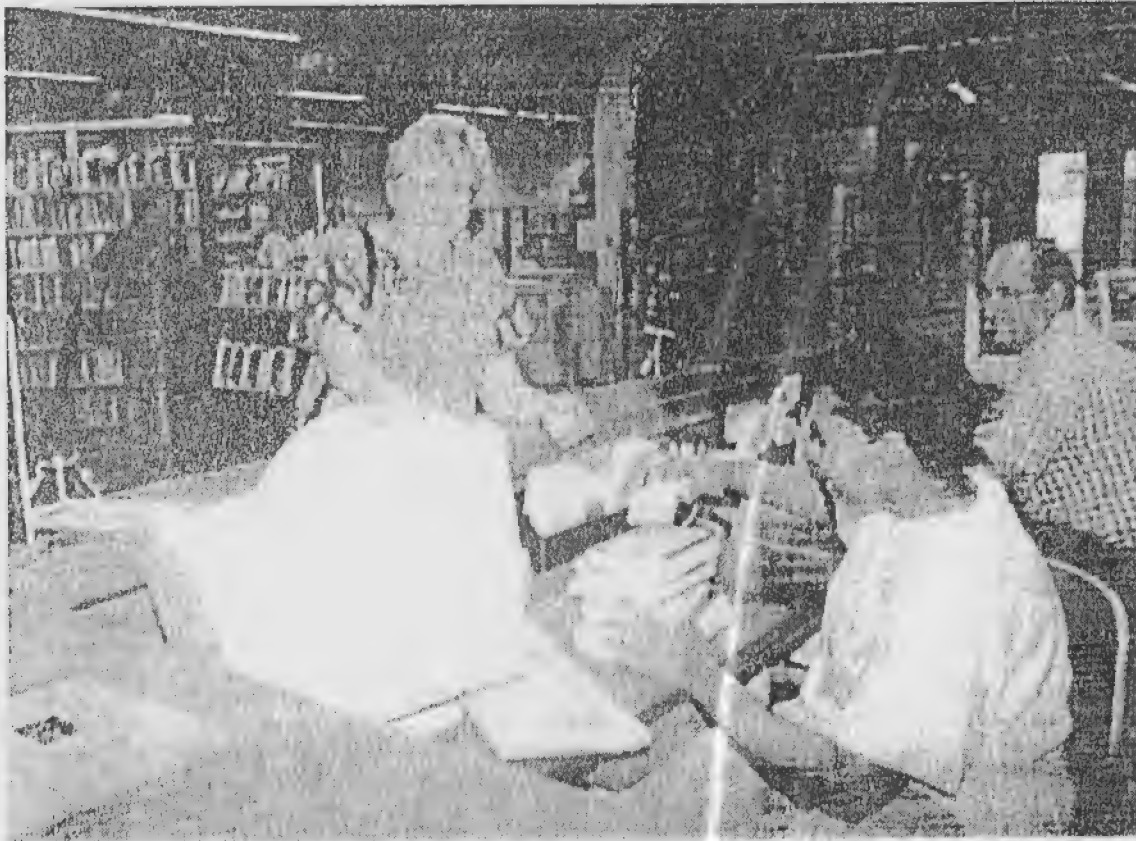
"Sometimes I'll see Caitlin putting away books," said Kurzeja. "She'll come upon a book she read as a child, the look of recognition flashes across her face, and she'll just sit down and read it right there."

July 29, 1999



Buddy Norris/Daily Press

Caitlin McLean and Nicole Ethier, both from Grafton High School, cut out elephant trunks to be used to play "Pin the Tail on the Elephant."



York Town Crier photos by Lois Chesley

Bettie Nuckols, left, checks out books at the York County Library. Letitia James scans information

Library folks stay busy

By Beth Meisner
Town Crier staff

Most patrons of the York County Public Library system follow a pretty simple routine. Once or twice a month they pop into the library, scan the catalog or shelves for just the right selection, check out their books or tapes -- and they're off. The next visit involves returning the checked-out items and making a new selection.

Short, sweet, simple.

Consider, however, the cumulative effect of hundreds of library patrons and you begin to get a picture of the workload placed on library

employees. There are currently 16.5 full-time equivalents working on behalf of library patrons, a number which will increase to approximately 32 when the new library opens in Tabb in October.

And while most patrons only interact with the circulation or reference desks, a flurry of activity goes on constantly behind the door marked "Staff Only" as well.

One month only, June, illustrates the point well. Each month, a report of library activities is prepared for the Board of Trustees. June's report makes it clear that, even during the summer, the library

staff has plenty to do to keep it busy.

For instance, those patrons who popped in to the library in June checked out a total of 23,665 items during the 30 days the facility was open. That gave staff a daily average of 789 check-outs. The report notes that the heaviest daily circulation, 1,172, came on a Wednesday, while the lightest circulation of only 358 items fell on a Sunday. (Sunday circulation during the summer months is lower than dur-

Please see **BUSY**, Page 2



Pat Riter, left, assists Mario Johnson with research



Valerie Hill catalogues books behind the scenes

Busy

Continued from Page 1

ing the winter months when school is in session and students use the library heavily on weekends, according to Librarian Beverly Dudley. In addition, the library is only open four hours on Sundays throughout the summer.)

Check-outs are just part of the daily routine at the library. In June, staff also responded to 1,540 reference questions and provided 135 magazines for reference use by patrons. Staff added 344 new books to the library's collection and processed 526 volumes for the Tabb library. There were 61 new audio-visual titles added to the collection, and 67 books were withdrawn due to worn out conditions. A total of 343 new patrons signed up for library cards in June.

Staff also kept track of public-use computers: 95 patrons used word processors, 35 used the business computer, 25 used the genealogical computer and the Internet was accessed 660 times. The children's computer was in "almost constant use," although specific data isn't available because children don't have to sign-in to use these

machines as adults do.

Meanwhile, staff processed 422 "holds" or reservations for specific books and sent out 821 first notices for overdue books. The library collected and processed \$2,555.56 in overdue fines in June and \$452.44 in book replacement charges. Revenue generated by fines goes to the county; book replacement fees are returned to the library at the end of the fiscal year so new books can be purchased, Dudley explained.

Additional revenue generated at the library included \$473.65 in copier fees and \$44.12 in donations from book sales and reimbursement for paper. Revenue from these sources goes into the county's coffers.

Other numbers bear-out the workload: the meeting room was used 36 times in June; volunteers donated 334 hours of time and talent; 21 items were borrowed from other libraries and one item was loaned to another library. And none of these activities reflects the number of children who participate in the library's summer programs.

Short, sweet, simple -- but only from one side of the desk.

Book sale planned for county library

The Friends of the Library will sponsor a summer book sale on Aug. 13, 14, and 15, at the York County Public Library. Friday evening's sale will be from 3 to 8 p.m. and is for members of the Friends organization. Memberships will be available at the door.

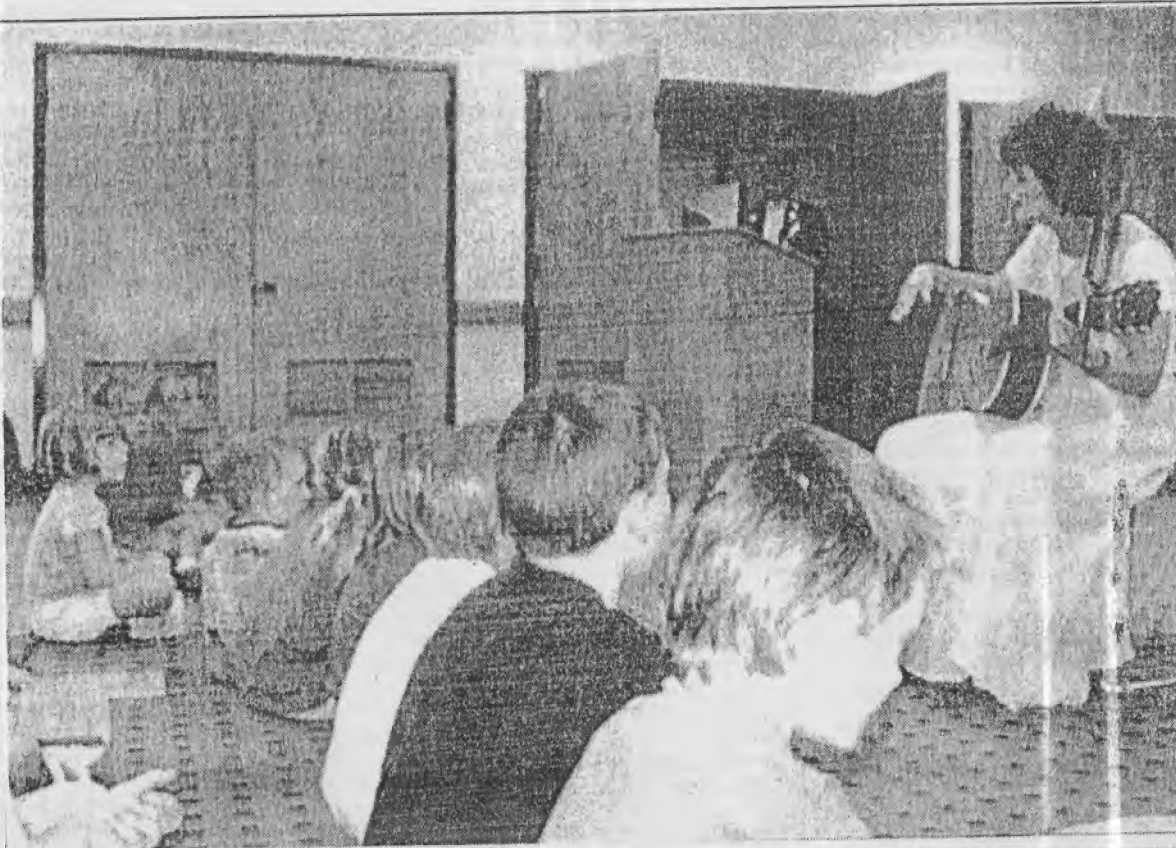
on Saturday, the sale hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday's sale will be from 1 to 5 p.m. These are open to the public.

There will be books for adults and children in many categories, including both fact and fiction. Most books are in excellent condition and are offered at bargain prices.

Profits from the sale will enable the Friends to provide added programs and equipment to the library.

Daily Press
Aug. 8, 1999

BOOK SALE IN YORK. The Friends of the York County Public Library will hold a book sale Aug. 14 and 15 at the library, 8500 George Washington Highway, Yorktown. The sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Aug. 15. A preview sale for members of the Friends group will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday. Memberships will be available at the door.



York Town Crier photos by Carl Chesley

Fractured tale

The County of York Teen Theatre Troupe presented 'The Frog Prince . . . Continued,' a fractured fairy tale based on Jon Scieszka's book, to a group of children at the York County Library recently. Karen Kurzeja, top photo, provides the background as she introduces and explains the fractured style. Above, from left, children enjoy the performance; witches Caitlin McLean and Nicole Ethier mix brews; and Brittany Pomeroy portrays a princess.

Dudley will brief Board on library

By Beth Meisner

Town Crier staff

Beverly Dudley has waited a long time to mark "Grand Opening" in her calendar, but last week York County's Library Director was able to do just that. After years of planning and months of building, the York County Library in Tabb is about to become a reality.

Between now and Oct. 9, the "Grand Opening" of the new facility on Route 134, county employees and contractors will be putting the finishing touches to the 32,000-square foot, \$5.4 million library which will serve the county's fastest growing population.

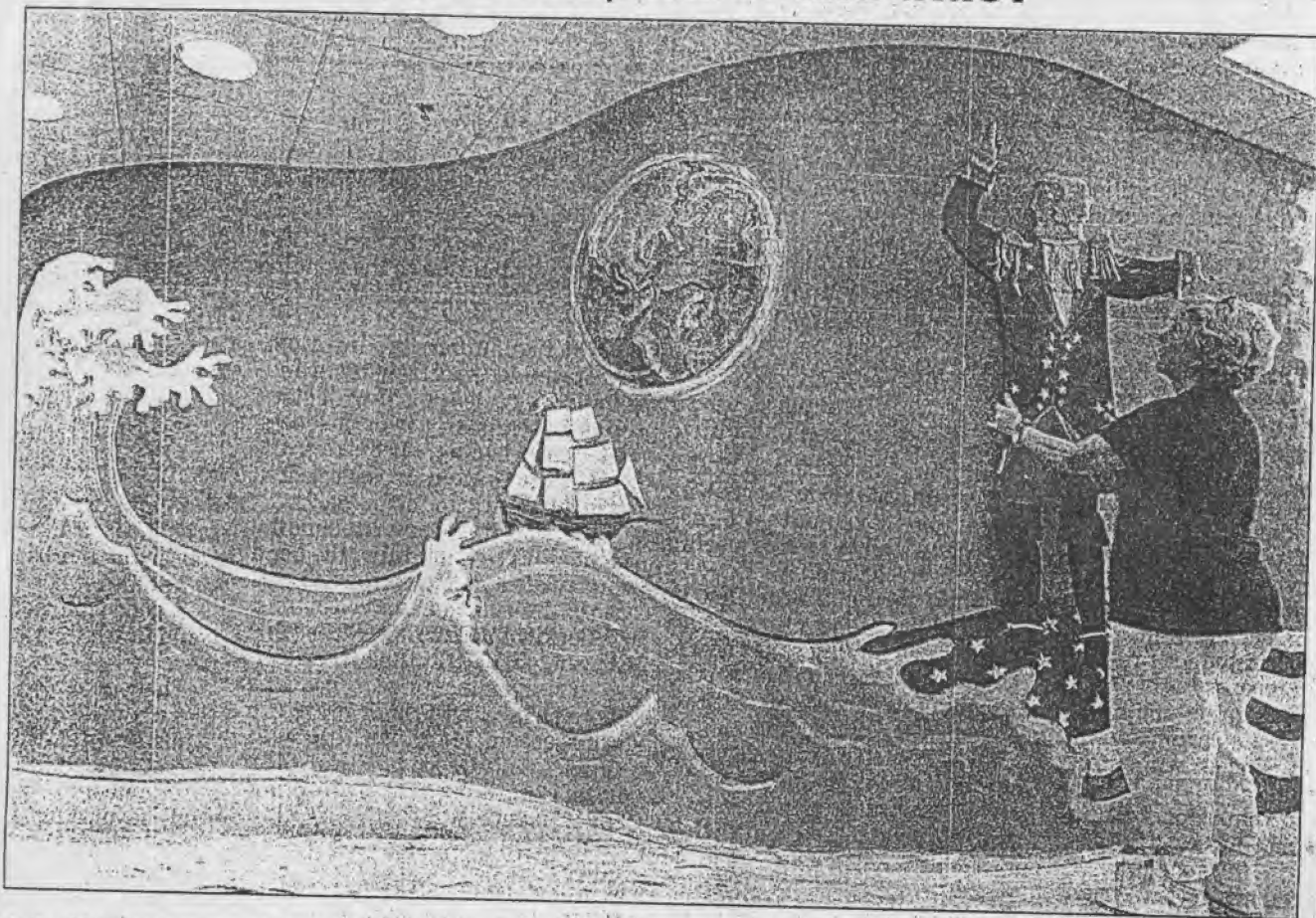
As construction continued over the past several months, committees have pondered interior designs and finishings. It's all scheduled to come together with a party and an opening for public use the second Saturday in October.

Dudley will brief the Board of Supervisors on the library when that body meets in regular session on Wednesday, Aug. 18, beginning at 7 p.m., in the Board Room of the Finance Building on Alexander Hamilton Boulevard in Yorktown.

The new facility will employ approximately 32 full-time equivalents; some of whom are already on board at the library's present site. New hires will undergo a two-week, often on-the-job training period prior to the new library's opening.

The new library will offer state-of-the art technology in a spacious, attractive building which will feature a Nancy Thomas mural in the children's area. Following the opening of the new library, the old facility on George Washington Memorial Highway will get a sprucing-up and some needed maintenance. Major renovation projects will have to wait due to current budget restraints, but plans are to turn attention and dollars to the old facility in the future.

What's read, white and blue?



Artist Nancy Thomas places George Washington on the wall of Tabb Library. She was hired to decorate the children's section of the new \$5 million library. Photos by Buddy Norris/Daily Press

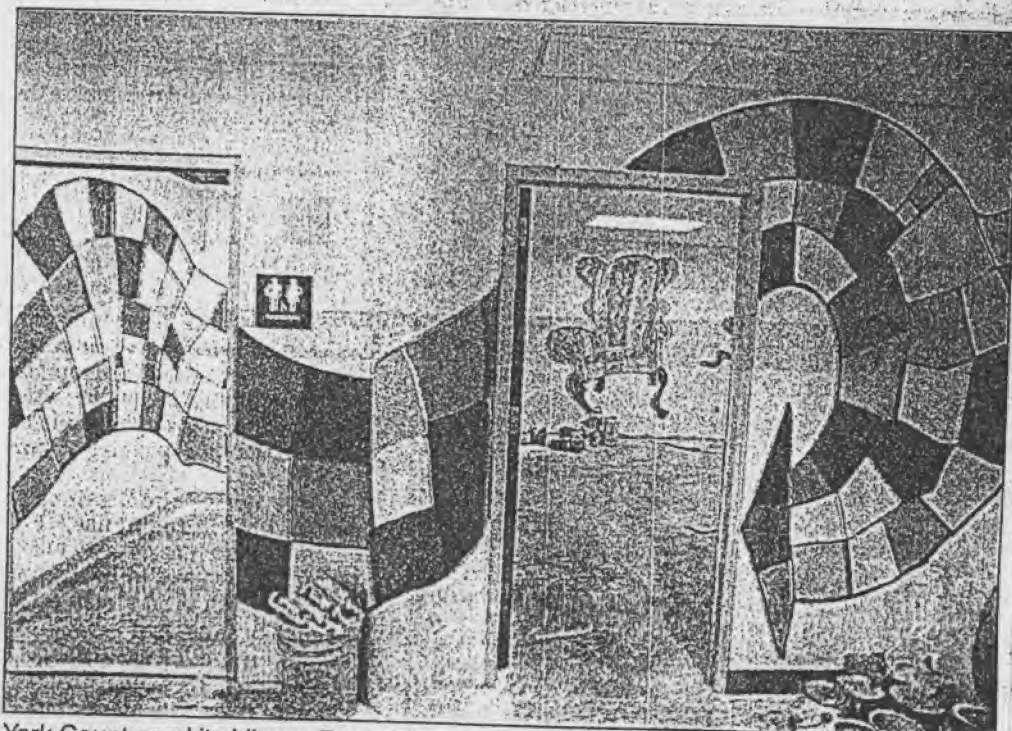
Tabb Library

Nationally known folk artist Nancy Thomas runs retail galleries in Yorktown and in Williamsburg.

She has been working in the arts full time for more than 20 years, and her paintings can fetch thousands of dollars apiece.

York County is paying Thomas \$10,000 for her work on the children's section of the Tabb Library, and the county's Library Foundation is raising another \$10,000 for the work. Thomas will also design a poster, which the foundation hopes to use to raise money for both the county's libraries.

The \$5 million Tabb Library is expected to be furnished and decorated for a public opening in early October.



York County and its Library Foundation asked Thomas to create a children's section that is "bright and cheery," according to Jan Farley, chairwoman of the foundation's trustees.

Writer expresses concern over library

Town Crier:

This letter is to express my dissatisfaction with the library situation in York County.

The new library is getting the full attention of the Library Board and a majority of the supervisors to the detriment of the existing library. The existing library was opened to the public in October 1984 and was hailed as an example of our tax dollars being put to good use.

It immediately attracted many patrons plus many volunteers who have given freely of their time over the years, thus saving the county the expense of hiring more personnel. The Friends of the Library have also contributed much to its success with time and money.

While many other large county buildings have sprung up over the years, this library has had the most patron use and traffic of any other building.

I am very disappointed with the complete lack of interest and neglect by the county in the upkeep of the building. For example -- the original carpet is still on the floor -- faded, with holes and stains. The meeting room has stains due to many children's programs and other meetings where food was served. There is a general air of deterioration in the whole building.

In an article in the Crier on August 18, it was stated that it will get some attention, but "major renovation projects will have to wait due to *current budget restraints*." How long do we have to wait?

I have heard that the new library will have many frills such as a \$20,000 mural, fireplace, ponds, coffee bar, etc. The \$400,000 given to Christopher Newport University for a yet-to-be-built cultural center would do York County citizens much more good if it had been spent in the county.

I have yet to hear one person express approval of it. Why couldn't the Old York County Courthouse be renovated for our cultural center, and why do the supervisors need a new meeting room?

Since we pay Williamsburg a fair amount each year for use of their library by upper York County patrons, are we going to charge Hampton, Newport News and Langley Air Force Base for use of the new library? They don't pay any taxes for its upkeep and it is right in their front yard.

The lack of concern by the majority of the Supervisors -- one of whom is on the Library Board -- is distressing. We who have Walt Zaremba as our supervisor are indeed fortunate.

The fact that he has no opposition in the upcoming county elections makes a very positive statement and tells the other incumbents running in other districts, and who have opposition, that the citizens are not happy with their performance. Mr. Zaremba is our one voice crying in the wilderness.

I don't begrudge the patrons of the new library their good fortune, but we who have been here over the years would like a little of the wealth spread our way.

Virginia W. Cervi
Yorktown